

Libyan major seeks asylum in Egypt

ASWAN, Egypt (R) — A Libyan pilot landed his military helicopter on a road in southern Egypt Wednesday and asked for political asylum, a senior police officer said. Aswan police chief Farouk Hilal said Major Fathi Malyoud Al Sagheer had taken off from Kufra oasis in southeastern Libya on a military mission to Sudan, but headed for Egypt instead. Sagheer landed his Soviet-built helicopter about 100 kilometres south of Aswan on a tourist road leading to the Abu Simbel pharaonic temple, Hilal said. Several similar incidents over the past two years have aggravated already unfriendly relations between the two neighbours. Hilal said Major Sagheer complained in interrogations about Libya's involvement in the civil war in Sudan, where Libyan pilots have flown bombing missions against rebel positions in the south. In the past, Egypt has granted asylum to Libyan defectors, but has also returned aircraft and crew members who were brought against their will. In March 1987, eight Libyans in a Chinook helicopter and a C-130 transport plane landed in Egypt. Five were granted asylum while three others were returned home at their request.

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King addresses the country on recent events

Voices deep regret over destruction of infrastructure • Pledges speedy steps towards eliminating root causes • Warns against tampering with security

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday expressed deep regret over last week's tragic events in some parts of the Kingdom and said that steps would be taken to eliminate the root causes that led to the regrettable incidents.

King Hussein in a nationwide address broadcast on Jordan Television, called on the citizens to exert strenuous efforts towards rebuilding the national economy.

The monarch also announced that steps could soon be taken to speed up the process of parliamentary elections in Jordan.

Following are major excerpts of the King's speech: "I send you my greetings and affection. My address to you comes in the wake of the painful ordeal that we have overcome with the help of God. But, we all are still living through financial and economic straits which pose a real collective challenge because we belong to the one nation and have one orientation and all seek to serve the nation's highest interests.

"We all are concerned with protecting the security of this

country because it is a security for each one of us and we are concerned with developing this society because it is a society for all of us.

"As I address you, I feel pain filling my heart to see the 36-year-old Jordanian march darkened with such incidents that happened in the past week. The bright picture of Jordan cannot be completely void of dark patches here and there but these should by no means affect the Jordanian march and Jordan will, by God's will, remain an oasis of stability and a fortress of security and also land full of activity and development and construction regardless of the difficult circumstances and the great

Accelerated moves towards elections

challenges which can only enhance our determination and resolve.

The regrettable incidents which occurred in some Jordanian cities recently represented dark patches not because they reflected protests by certain sectors of the public over a rise in prices adopted reluctantly by the government, but because of the methods to which that sectors resorted in expressing their protest.

"The incidents cause pain to those who are living including the Jordanian people. Resorting to damage, arson, and destruction and killing is not a civilised and constructive expression of protest; neither is it a method with which the Jordanians are familiar in this country with its open channels between the citizens and government.

"The acts of sabotage were directed against state property, and public utilities like health centres, water pumping stations

telecommunications exchanges and others. All these represent part of the country's infrastructure for the past 10 years with the hope of raising the living standards of the people and to pave the way for enabling citizens to fulfil their aspirations, progress and tranquility.

"Those were public utilities for which the local residents had sought hard to build and set up and expand. The infrastructure and the building up of the Armed Forces to bolster our defences and to enable us to protect the Arab Homeland, specially as we defend the longest confrontation lines with Israel had prompted us to borrow...

"Was it wrong to build the infrastructure or to build up the Armed Forces? Was it wrong to have confidence in brothers who had pledged to provide us with our needs, something which encouraged us to borrow?

"How come that when we

wanted to voice our protest, we resorted to destroying what we had borrowed money to build, and which caused our debts to accumulate? It is like that man who borrowed money to build a home and when he felt he was in difficulty he destroyed the home, thus losing the home and rendering himself incapable of paying back the loan?

"For this reason, the past incidents were dark patches in the Jordanian march, not because they took the form of self-destruction, which can only be described as disgusting, and causing sadness.

"Shouldn't we be ashamed or distressed over the self-destruction since we are the citizens of a country known for its stability and security, and a nation that prefer dialogue...?"

"We have aroused the envy and jealousy of our enemy and won the admiration of friends with our achievements and accomplishments, hard circumstances and with limited resources. "There is no need for me to remind you of the circumstances of this country and its surroundings, something that have been discussed and debated in our seminars and conferences.

Syria denies existence of Jordanian group

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Wednesday no Jordanian group was based in Damascus or any other part of the country.

The Syrian News Agency (SANA) quoted Information Minister Mohammad Salman as saying a group calling itself the "Committee for the Defence of Democratic Freedom in Jordan" did not exist. Salman refuted a statement carried by Reuters attributing it to the group.

"Such a committee does not exist. It has no office in Damascus or in Syria," SANA quoted Salman as saying.

Gerasimov explains Soviet policy in Mideast, Afghanistan, perestroika

Moscow fully backs PLO on Shamir's election plan

By Rania Atalla
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Soviet Union totally supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) position that elections in the Israeli-occupied territories should be part of an overall process leading to a comprehensive peace settlement, Soviet Foreign Minister Gennadi Gerasimov said Wednesday.

"We support the PLO position" on the election plan, proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and which has received U.S. endorsement, said Gerasimov, who arrived here Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan.

"As I understand, (the PLO leadership) is now ready to discuss this plan but only... and I completely agree because... only in the context of a Middle East settlement," he told the Jordan Times in an interview.

Gerasimov said the Shamir plan, which "excludes the PLO from elections," aims at "creating quillings... puppet authorities..." Shamir's proposal calls for elections in the occupied territories to choose Palestinian representatives to negotiate Camp David-style Palestinian

"autonomy" and is seen by most observers as a stalling tactic and a means to split the Palestinian ranks within and outside the West Bank and Gaza Strip since it makes no provision for PLO participation.

"What kind of elections can they (the Israelis) have without PLO participation?" Gerasimov asked. The Soviet official, whose visit to Jordan follows a Middle East swing by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in February, also appeared to agree with arguments put forward by Palestinians that Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories could be identified through the election, thus helping the Israelis to eliminate them.

"Jewish terrorists have killed elected officials in the West Bank," he pointed out in an obvious reference to several West Bank mayors elected in 1976 but who were either killed, maimed or expelled.

The spokesman reiterated the oft-repeated Soviet position that any improvement in Soviet-Israeli relations depends on "developments towards settling the Middle East conflict."

Gerasimov side-stepped a question on whether Moscow was directly in-

volved in efforts to mediate the rift between the Syrian and PLO leaderships by saying "we welcome any effort that will help bring about Arab unity."

"Arab disunity"

He lamented what he described as Arab disunity. "We have criticised Arab for disunity (which) is a very negative factor and we support any effort (to unite the Arab ranks)," he said.

He expressed hope that Arab foreign ministers who opened a meeting in Tunis Wednesday to discuss the Lebanese conflict would contribute to settling inter-Arab differences.

Moscow supports the Arab League's efforts to end the Lebanese strife and achieve a political solution to the 15-year-old civil war, Gerasimov said.

Asked whether the Soviet Union, one of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, was in favour of some Western efforts to bring the Lebanese problem to the Security Council, Gerasimov said: "In my view, we must take things step by step. You have this (Arab) foreign ministers meeting now. Let us wait for its results."

But, he said, Moscow had "no objections" to taking the Lebanese issue to the U.N. Security Council if the Arab League fails to come with a solution. "Maybe it is not a bad idea," he said.

Jordan-Soviet ties

Gerasimov described Jordanian-Soviet relations as being in "good shape" and said his visit to Amman was aimed at improving ties even further in the wake of the visit to the Kingdom by Shevardnadze two months ago.

"Politically, we are on very good terms," he said. "We have common positions on many international issues including the aspects of Middle East situation." He said there was still room for improvement in trade relations between the two countries.

Saudi-Soviet ties

In the wide-ranging interview, Gerasimov also said the Soviet Union was looking forward to improving relations with Saudi Arabia, and saw no obstacles to the two countries exchanging ambassadors.

"The Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia do have diplomatic relations... but we do not have embassies," he said, alluding to the fact that there was no actual break in formal ties when the two countries closed their respective embassies in each other's capitals several decades ago.

"The question is not if we are going to have diplomatic relations or not. Reopening the embassies is the question," he said.

"We are ready to reopen the embassies," he said. "It takes two to tango... we do not see any obstacles. We have good relations with other countries in the Arabian Peninsula."



Gennadi Gerasimov

Asked what Moscow expected from Riyadh at this point in time towards better relations, Gerasimov said: "They must send a survey team to Moscow to find the best place for an embassy."

Perestroika

In discussing "perestroika," or the new Soviet strategy of restructuring, Gerasimov agreed that Tuesday's shake-up in the Communist Party Central Committee could be interpreted as a success for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his reform programme (see page 8).

"Perestroika means you must change the old ways... and as the English saying goes, it is difficult to teach an old dog new tricks. Sometimes this applies to humans," he said.

He described the decision of some

(Continued on page 2)

Israelis kill 3 boys, wound at least 38

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israeli troops Wednesday shot dead two Palestinian teenagers in the occupied Gaza Strip and an eight-year-old boy in the occupied West Bank during a general strike, hospitals said.

Hospital officials in the occupied territories reported that troops shot and wounded at least 38 protesters, most of them in the Gaza Strip where casualties have been heavy since the start of the fasting month of Ramadan.

An army spokesman confirmed the three deaths.

Hospital officials in the occupied West Bank town of Tulikarem said eight-year-old Issam Omar Anes Hassan was dead on arrival with a bullet wound in his chest. They said he was shot by troops in Tulikarem refugee camp.

Officials at Gaza City's Ahli Hospital said Shafiq Hafez Al Kath. 16, was shot in the heart during a demonstration in the

city's Sabra neighbourhood. Witnesses told Reuters more than 500 people, chanting nationalist songs and carrying Palestinian flags, took part in the Gaza City protest.

When an army patrol arrived, the Palestinians attacked them with stones and troops opened fire. The witnesses said at least two people were injured.

Palestinians said troops shot and wounded 12 protesters in Sha'ti refugee camp, including a 14-year-old boy reported in critical condition. Six people in other areas of Gaza City and two in Rafah town of the Egyptian border.

The U.S. State Department Monday expressed concern over the surge in violence in the 16-month-old Palestinian revolt.

In their latest underground leaflet, the fundamentalist Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, called a strike for Wednesday to mark the

anniversary of the capture of Mecca in the 7th century by the Prophet Mohammad's armies.

Merchants in Gaza closed shops and residents of the occupied West Bank, also complied with the strike call, Palestinians said.

The clandestine unified leadership of the uprising designated Wednesday as a day to punish Arabs who cooperated with Israeli authorities.

Palestinians said a suspected collaborator was found shot to death Tuesday night near the West Bank village of Ras Atiyah. They identified him as Faeq Saleh Arar, 38.

Arar was the third suspected collaborator killed in the past two days and at least the 32nd killed during the uprising.

Most of the 452 Palestinians killed during the revolt have been stone-throwers shot by Israeli troops.

PLO: No elections without withdrawal

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf said Wednesday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) rejected elections in the occupied territories without U.N. supervision and before Israeli withdrawal.

In a statement clarifying remarks he made to Reuters Tuesday, he said: "We cannot accept elections in the shadow of the occupation and without international supervision after the withdrawal of Israeli forces."

On Tuesday Khalaf, who is the deputy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the mainstream Fateh movement, said the PLO might endorse elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip before Israeli withdrawal provided they were part of a comprehensive settlement leading to withdrawal and self-determination for the Palestinian people.

"We can discuss elections as one stage in a series of defined stages, as long as it's clear that the final settlement is self-determination and Israeli withdrawal," Khalaf (Abu Iyad) said.

"The official position is that we agree to elections as part of a comprehensive settlement, in whatever form. At that stage even the details do not matter," he added.

Arafat stated the same position in an interview with a U.S. television station last week.

The statement issued Wednesday by Abu Iyad's office repeated that elections must also be part of a plan leading to self-determination and an independent Palesti-

nian state.

"The elections must be conceived in the framework of a plan... which includes both an intermediary and a definitive period allowing the Palestinian people to decide their fate and define their independent status," the statement said.

More than 80 Palestinian leaders from occupied Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza Wednesday rejected the election plan proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and demanded an international conference to resolve the Middle East conflict.

"We believe real peace in the region cannot be achieved by projects that are calculated to appeal to the media, to end the (Palestinian) uprising and to win time," the leaders said in a statement.

It was the first formal response from local Palestinians to the peace proposal that Shamir outlined on a trip to Washington earlier this month.

Shamir proposed that elections be held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to select Palestinians who would hold talks with Israel on an interim solution. After two years, discussions would begin towards a permanent solution.

The plan, as outlined by the Shamir government, rules out any participation by the PLO.

But in their statement, the Palestinian leaders called on Israel to "recognise the necessity of negotiations with the PLO, the

sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, within the framework of an international conference."

The statement said Shamir's election plan was "an attempt to divide our people into 'inside' and 'outside' Palestinians."

It said the signers' "rejection of the election proposal does not indicate a rejection of elections as a democratic process, but is the rejection of a project which ignores the essence of the conflict."

"This isolated occurrence of elections does not illustrate how it will lead to the end of the occupation and to Palestinian national independence," the statement said.

It urged that the United Nations be given authority to administer the occupied territories during a transitional period to Palestinian statehood.

The statement, distributed in both Arabic and English, was signed by 83 prominent Palestinians.

Chief among them was Faisal Al Hussein of Arab Jerusalem, who recently returned from meetings with Egyptian officials in Cairo

Sporadic shelling in Beirut as talks open

Arab League hopes for breakthrough

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab foreign ministers gathered in Tunis Wednesday to study proposals they hope will bring peace to Lebanon despite resistance from some of the factions fighting in and around Beirut.

The plan, drafted by a team of seven mediators, calls for an end to the artillery battles which have torn Beirut for six weeks, the reopening of hockaded Lebanese ports and the deployment of a 200- to 300-strong Arab ceasefire observer force.

Once a ceasefire was in place, Lebanese leaders would meet at a round-table conference to fill the vacant presidency and map out a political settlement to the 14-year-old conflict.

Army commander Major-General Michel Aoun, the main protagonist on the rightist side in the fighting, has implicitly challenged the Arab initiative by calling for an international or Euro-Arab peacekeeping force.

Militia leader Nabih Berri, one of Aoun's Lebanese opponents, also opposes the Arab observer mission "because we don't need another Arab multinational force."

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaa of Syria, which has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon, said in remarks published Wednesday that Syria had not yet studied the observer force proposal.

Pro-Syrian sources in Beirut and Arab League officials in Tunis, however, said Damascus had no objections to the force.

"Syria is assured there is no real international support for Aoun. It is fully behind Arab efforts," one source said.

An assistant to Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi, one of the seven mediators, told Reuters in Tunis he doubted Aoun or Berri could resist the momentum of the Arab initiative.

"I believe Aoun will accept it in the end. It's supported by all the Arab countries and no one can talk of dialogue without a ceasefire. As for Berri, he will have to go along whether he likes it or not," he said.

"If Aoun rejects it, then it's back to turmoil. My impression is that he's already alienated much of the Christian community by insisting on this stupid fighting," he said.

Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, in

remarks published Wednesday, called for a ceasefire in Lebanon and said the country's leaders should seek peace "in a spirit of brotherhood and forgiveness."

Fahd told a Saudi gathering in the port of Jeddah that he felt "strong pain" and "tremendous surprise" at the bloodletting in Lebanon because the only people suffering were the Lebanese, the newspapers Okaz and Bilad reported.

"Lebanon's men are able to solve the problem if they show determination to do so in a spirit of brotherhood, forgiveness and feeling for the importance of Lebanon remaining united," King Fahd was quoted as saying.

In Lebanon, where shells fell intermittently Wednesday on the ancient port of Byblos and in the mountains to the east, civilians were sceptical about a breakthrough in Tunis.

Guns Wednesday rocketed the coastline north of Beirut in sporadic barrages sending a ship fleeing from port, police said.

Police said Syrian forces and militiamen of the Progressive Socialist Party fired their multi-barrelled rocket launchers from

hilltop positions around Beirut overnight and during the day.

Their affair targeted a 16-kilometre coastal stretch between Jounieh and Byblos, the main ports of the 800-square-kilometre Christian enclave.

An unidentified commercial ship docked in Amvet harbour just north of Byblos sailed quickly out to sea when shells fell around it, police said.

Aoun's mainly Christian forces struck back with 155-mm artillery fire at Syrian and PSP positions around west Beirut. No casualties were reported on either side.

Power was restored in Beirut Tuesday for two hours a day, ending a 10-day blackout caused by lack of fuel at the main power plants in the divided capital.

Water supplies also began trickling back as the capital's pumping system, shut down when power was cut off, resumed operations. Water too was rationed.

A convoy of 10 six-wheel trucks carrying 35 tons of medical supplies from Kuwait rolled into west Beirut Wednesday, completing a three-day journey across Iraq, Jordan and Syria.

Dr. Mohammad Mohanna, a

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At Abu Jaber Estate (Airport Highway)

Kabul switches revolution day to avert rebel attacks

KABUL (Agencies) — The Afghan government celebrated the anniversary of a communist takeover a day early Wednesday in a bizarre ceremony which excluded ordinary Afghans and highlighted fears of a rebel attack on Kabul.

Tanks and armoured cars took up positions at key points while soldiers cordoned off main streets in the capital to provide maximum security for a lightning parade watched by President Najibullah and a couple of thousand supporters.

Foreign journalists, who had been kept in the dark about the event, were dragged out of bed at the crack of dawn and rushed to the scene.

While troops lined up along the streets, two mighty explosions reverberated through the city as government troops fired long-range missiles at the rebel Mujahadeen positions.

Witnesses said two rebel rockets also landed near Kabul airport, a frequent target of the guerrillas operating from snow-capped mountains ringing the Afghan capital.

The anniversary ceremonies, originally scheduled for Thursday, were over in less than an hour. Tanks, armoured cars and anti-aircraft units filled past the presidential stand and jet fighters and helicopter gunships roared overhead in a fly-past.

A few foreign delegations, mainly from the Soviet bloc, stood beside the president and members of his government to watch the first show of military

force since the last Soviet troops left Afghanistan Feb. 15.

Officials said fear of Mujahadeen rocket attacks was the main reason for bringing forward the 11th anniversary of the Saur revolution which installed the communist government in a military coup in 1978. At least 15 people have died in rocket attacks in the past five days.

The mayor of Kabul said Tuesday that supporters of the Mujahadeen had distributed leaflets in the city calling on people to rise against the government.

The government has stepped up security by stationing armoured units on approaches to the capital. All private cars are searched in a routine operation to stop rebel infiltration into the city of 2.5 million.

Jalalabad battles

The government said Tuesday its armed forces killed 58 rebels as they mounted another attack on the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The Soviet ambassador to Afghanistan said the seven-week-old siege on the capital of Nangarhar province appeared to have been orchestrated entirely by the Pakistani military, not by the government of Prime Minister Buzurg Bhutto.

"I don't think she's looking for a military solution," said Ambassador Yuli M. Vorontsov. "I think she wants peace and quiet in Afghanistan. The Pakistani military has something else in mind. They want people who are going to be very obedient to Pakistan."

According to a report in the New York Times earlier this week, Bhutto's government ordered the frontal assault on Jalalabad last month despite opposition from Pakistan's military intelligence service. The newspaper said the decision was made in the presence of U.S. Ambassador Robert Oakley and that no resistance leaders were at the meeting.

Islamabad has denied the allegations, and Washington has yet to comment.

The Kabul government also has been low-key in its response to the article, saying a political settlement is the only way to end the 11-year-old war.

Najibullah has frequently accused Pakistan of armed aggression and interference in his country. But his government has directed its criticism at the Pakistani military and avoided any direct reference to Bhutto.

"I think it was entirely a plot of the Pakistani military," Vorontsov said in an interview in the fortress-like embassy compound in western Kabul.

Rebels fired a rocket into the 15-hectare compound at sunrise last Thursday. The explosion shattered windows but caused no casualties among the 260 people staying there.

Vorontsov warned another rocket strike would not go unnoticed.

"If there is a second one they will be sorry," he said.

"We will reply swiftly and decisively," he said. "Our reply is ready and it won't be a diplomatic note."

King addresses the country

Continued from page 1

chosen to keep quiet about them and to prefer to deal with them and to resist them with all available means...

"I would like to say to all those who had bet on subduing us and forcing us to accept what conflicts with our honour and freedom that we shall never kneel except to God. We will never sell out any part of our holy shrines or any iota of our Arab soil."

"We have the right to seek why and for whose interest Jordan is exposed to these pressures hatched by the enemies of the Arab Nation. We have always resisted these pressures and will continue to resist them depending on your awareness and your cohesion. We will resist pressures to which we are being exposed today and we will come out of this stage as we did in the past far stronger than ever."

"There is no need for me to remind you that any tampering with the security of the country and its property and the state's installations serves as a support for these pressures which aim at subjugating us and humiliating us. I can not tolerate to see any one of you, any one member of the Jordanian family, serving as a tool in the hands of the Arab Nation's enemies."

"We will not suffice ourselves by condemning the actions of those who had gone astray but we will confront them with all firmness and vigilance in response to the national duty and the need to safeguard the country's security and stability on the one hand and protecting the citizens on the other."

"I find it necessary to remind you that ought to dispose of a bad social custom which has now spread amongst you causing us more harm than that is caused by our enemies and that is slandering and offending one another and casting doubts against any public policy."

"We will review the events and their root causes and will take lessons from them because they will help us to transform them into a new springboard for reconstruction in the administrative, economic and financial spheres. We must share the burden of pain and responsibility and we should not escape from confronting the realities to worse situations but we should rather confront the situation with a strong will and determination so that we can have a renewed hope in the future."

"To achieve this we will undertake all the required and appropriate measures and we will take speedy steps towards parliamentary elections with the aim of strengthening the basis of institutions of government sharing now that all the obstacles impeding our way resulting from the 1967 war

had been removed.

"Self-reliance requires from us to mobilise all our potentials and employ all available resources and adhere to our values. We must work harder and increase production in all fields and we must shoulder our duties with sincerity and we must let loose the talents and creative powers in all directions and we must respect others' views and commit ourselves to the principle of dialogue and affection and understanding."

"I have total confidence in you and your ability to overcome the obstacles and hardships that will accompany our measures to attain our objectives and pursue the process of development and improve the standard of living so we can ensure the future of the coming generations in an atmosphere of justice and human dignity."

"This step will be taken now that the elections law has been issued to conform the Kingdom's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank and the recognition of the State of Palestine."

"We are today facing a new stage of forward direction requiring us to remember a number of facts so that we can remember our duties and remember the responsibilities placed upon us as one people — government or citizens — and wherever we are. We must remember that we are going through a difficult time that requires strenuous and strong efforts and a common responsibility so that we can come out with success."

"We must also remember that we have to rely on ourselves as much as we can with all that entails of rationalising consumption, increasing production and changing harmful habits."

40 killed, 700 hurt in Mauritanian riots

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Riots stabbed, stoned or clubbed to death at least 40 people and wounded 700 in two days of attacks against Senegalese living in the Mauritanian capital Nouakchott, hospital sources said Wednesday.

Troops were out in force in the city and in Dakar, capital of neighbouring Senegal, where Mauritanian traders and shops have been attacked since Saturday.

The violence in the two countries on the edge of the Sahara Desert was sparked by a border shooting over disputed grazing rights April 9 but has been fuelled by underlying economic and racial tensions. Both governments appealed for calm and began repatriating victims who wanted to leave.

An underground Mauritanian opposition group said that more than 100 Senegalese had been killed in Nouakchott and the northern town of Nouadhibou.

Doctors in Nouakchott said victims had been stabbed or hit with iron bars or rocks. Troops and police ringed hospitals and

kept out reporters. Soldiers patrolled the streets after a night curfew and thousands of Senegalese who had sheltered in police stations were taken by bus to the safety of the desert city's ancient mosque.

The heavy army presence ended the violence and many Nouakchott residents went to work Wednesday although troops sealed off the main market. Some of the first planeload of Mauritanian refugees to arrive from Senegal late Tuesday were brought to the Olympic Stadium before being reunited with their families.

In Dakar some 10,000 Mauritians sought refuge in the great mosque which was encircled by soldiers.

Hundreds more who had been sheltered by Senegalese neighbours took taxis to the mosque clutching the few clothes and possessions they had saved from the looters who ransacked their homes and businesses over the weekend.

More than 300,000 Mauritians, many of them small traders, live in Senegal while 30,000

Senegalese, mostly seasonal workers, live in Mauritania.

Doctors at Dakar's Le Dantec hospital said at least 100 people were injured, most of them looters.

The looters' victims were mainly light-skinned moors — Mauritians of Arab and Berber descent — who dominate retail trade in Senegal where most of the population is black.

Poverty and youth unemployment are high and many rioters used the violence to ransack Mauritanian shops and homes, witnesses said.

In Mauritania Moors make up about two thirds of the two million population and are dominant politically.

King Hassan of Morocco said Wednesday he planned to send a peace mission from the Arab Maghreb Union to both countries. Mauritania is a member of the union with Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

The clandestine African Liberation Forces of Mauritania, which claims to represent blacks in Mauritania, said in a statement that more than 100 Senegalese had been killed.

S. Arabia planning major arms purchases

RIYADH (AP) — Defence Minister Prince Sultan plans a wide-ranging shopping plan for combat jets and submarines in five Western European countries next month, well-informed sources reported Tuesday.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the European visit will start after May 15 and will include Greece, the Netherlands, Austria, France and Britain.

They said that the prince will discuss buying submarines in France and the Netherlands, Tornado fighter jets in Britain and armoured cars in Austria.

The disclosure came amid reports that the United States, traditionally Saudi Arabia's main arms supplier, was considering selling it battle tanks and multiple-launch rocket systems.

Riyadh is seeking advanced U.S. warplanes such as the F-16 Hornet to replace its aging F-4 Phantom II jets.

The sources confirmed the Saudi interest in the U.S. arms and noted that Riyadh also had its eyes on F-15 and F-16 fighter jets, air-to-surface Maverick missiles and shoulder-fired Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

The kingdom has allocated some \$30 billion for arms purchases in a major upgrading of its growing military arsenal, despite the ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

The United States was main source of weapons until the U.S. Congress began blocking its access to sophisticated weaponry.

citing the possibility the weapons could be used against Israel. Britain superseded the United States as the main supplier with two deals in 1986 and 1988 worth more than \$25 billion.

The contracts involved the sale of some 120 Tornado fighters, 100 Hawk trainer jets, dozens of Swiss-built turboprop trainer planes and six minesweepers.

The sources said that Prince Sultan will also seek in London to push through so-called offset schemes under which British firms divert about one-third of the value of the deals back into joint projects in Saudi Arabia to bolster the kingdom's technological development.

France, which is the Saudis' second-ranking arms supplier, and the Netherlands are among a half-dozen Western European countries bidding for a contract to provide Riyadh with eight submarines to boost its expanding naval force.

The estimated \$4 billion project, which would give the kingdom its first submarine force, had been frozen for some time.

The sources said Prince Sultan will visit Switzerland at the end of the year, mainly for private reasons.

They also said, without elaboration, that he was expected to stop over in Iraq on his way to Europe.

King Fahd recently paid the first visit by a Saudi monarch to Baghdad in 30 years when he signed a non-aggression pact between the two countries.

Mubarak tipped to head OAU

CAIRO (R) — African leaders have agreed privately to elect Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak the next chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), African diplomats said Wednesday.

"You can take it for granted that it will be President Mubarak," an African ambassador told Reuters.

He and other African officials did not want to be quoted by name, they said, because the decision still needed to be formally approved by OAU members at a summit meeting in Addis Ababa in July.

"There is no other candidate... it is already settled," said a senior official from another African country.

The move will kick-off a year in which Egypt, a key player in Middle East politics, takes a

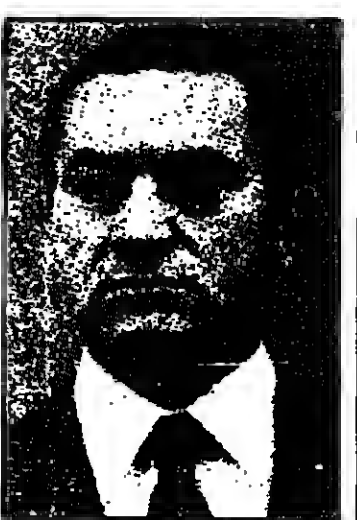
more high-profile role on African issues.

Egypt will host an OAU conference on African debt at the end of August that will bring together officials from African and creditor countries as well as specialists from international financial institutions.

A separate conference in July will deal with the joint issues of African and Latin American debt, a senior Egyptian official said.

Also during the summer, Egyptian officials are hoping to receive Jesse Jackson and other prominent black Americans to discuss racial discrimination and apartheid.

African diplomats said Libya, a harsh opponent of Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, would not object to Mubarak at the head of the 51-member OAU.



Hosni Mubarak

"At this point, nobody would listen to what came out of Tripoli anyway," a diplomat from sub-Saharan Africa said.

Mubarak, replacing Mali's President Moussa Traore in an annual rotation, will be the first Egyptian to head the OAU since Gamal Abdul Nasser took the chair at its first summit in 1964.

Rafsanjani endorses constitution move

NICOSIA (R) — Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, widely tipped to be elected Iran's president in August with enhanced executive powers, has given backing to moves to amend the constitution.

He said the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, will Monday order the formation of a committee to advise on constitutional changes, made the solving of his problems easy.

"Things which elsewhere in the world cause trouble and crisis are done here constructively and smoothly," Rafsanjani, the parliamentary speaker, said in a speech to parliament reported by Tehran Radio Tuesday night.

The parliament chose five de-

puties to join the 21 members appointed by Khomeini to the committee, charged with proposing constitutional changes concerning the leadership and government institutions within two months. The result will be put to a referendum.

The move followed Khomeini's sacking of his designated successor, Ayatollah Hoseini Ali Montazeri, last month and criticism by senior officials of a lack of centralisation in the exercise of executive and judicial powers.

Executive power is now divided between the president and prime minister and the judiciary is headed by a five-man council. Khomeini, 86, said the experi-

ence of the past 10 years had revealed shortcomings in the constitution, drawn up in the turbulent months following the 1979 revolution.

Iranian press reports last week said Rafsanjani backed a proposal for eliminating the post of prime minister in favour of vice presidents.

The two main clerical organisations which embrace most political tendencies in the Iranian leadership have endorsed Rafsanjani's candidature in August's presidential election.

Put members of the more hard-line combatant clergyman group have been more outspoken in calls for constitutional change,

especially in the criteria for choosing the supreme leader.

They argue that amendments should enable mojtaheds — senior Shiite clergyman below Khomeini's top rank of marja' — to be elected as leader or members of a leadership council.

This would change a vital characteristic of Iran's Islamic system of government under which supreme political and religious powers were combined in the person of Khomeini.

Prosecutor-General Mohammad Mousavi Khomeini has said this would cause no problems: a mojtahed's word could rule in matters of state while people could follow the marja' of their choice in personal affairs.

Soviet

Continued from page 1

older members to "step down" from the Central Committee as a very good one. "It means cutting out some of the dead wood," he asserted.

Afghan 'power struggle'

Gerasimov confirmed that the Soviet Union was continuing to extend military support for the government of President Najibullah in Afghanistan, but said Moscow was ready to call off such aid "if the other side stops" assisting the rebels fighting the Kabul regime. Refuting reports that Soviet bombers were involved in attacks against rebel positions, he said Moscow remained committed to the Geneva accords which resulted in the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, but accused

Pakistan and the U.S. of violating the agreement.

According to Gerasimov, the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan is attributable to "political ambitions" of rebel leaders. "The Afghan people must decide by themselves on a coalition government," he said. "They must sit down and negotiate. President Najibullah is ready to give important posts to the opposition leaders but they just do not want it. They want to continue fighting... they also fight each other... it is a very complicated picture. Instead of sitting together and deciding on the coalition government, they are fighting. It is a fight for power, a power struggle."

Gerasimov, who is visiting Jordan at the invitation of the government, is expected to leave for Cairo Friday for a similar visit.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iran expels 18 Britons

LONDON (R) — Iran has expelled 18 Britons in apparent retaliation for a similar number of Iranians being told to leave Britain after relations were broken over the Salman Rushdie affair, the Foreign Office said Wednesday. A spokesman said the government had asked Iran for clarification through the Swedish embassy in Tehran which has handled British interests since Britain withdrew its diplomats in February. Britain closed its embassy in Tehran and expelled Iran's sole diplomat in London after Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called for the death of British author Rushdie for blasphemy against Islam in his novel "The Satanic Verses." Britain expelled 18 Iranians, including students and former embassy staff members told to leave for security reasons in March after Tehran broke relations with Britain. The spokesman said it was not clear when the Britons were asked to leave Iran but he believed eight had already returned home. The remainder were expected back Wednesday, the deadline set by Tehran for their departure.

Gunmen attack Turkish diplomat's home

ISTANBUL (R) — Gunmen have fired at the home of a Turkish diplomat in the western Iranian city of Orumiye, Turkish state television said Tuesday. It said the two or three unidentified gunmen fled after shooting at the home of Slami Demiras, an administrative attaché at Turkey's Orumiye consulate, Monday night. Neither Demiras nor his wife were hurt. Relations between Iran and Turkey have been tense since March when a Turkish court banned women from wearing Islamic headscarves in universities. Iran said Muslim women should have the right to wear the scarves. Turkey withdrew its ambassador from Tehran April 4 for consultations, accusing Iran of meddling in its internal affairs. Tehran withdrew its own envoy shortly afterwards. "Turkey expects Iran to take measures to protect Turkish diplomats," the television quoted a Foreign Ministry statement as saying.

U.S. servicemen remembered

ARLINGTON (AP) — Eight U.S. servicemen were remembered for their sacrifice Tuesday, nine years after they died in a desert in Iran while trying to rescue American hostages. On a brilliant, blue morning on a hillside in Arlington National Cemetery, the men who died at desert one were honoured in a ceremony by friends, family and some of those they were trying to save. "They gave their lives trying to secure my freedom — that is the ultimate sacrifice," said former navy Chief Warrant Officer Joe Hall, one of the 52 Americans who were taken hostage at the U.S. embassy in Tehran Nov. 3, 1979 and held for 444 days. The rescue mission was attempted by an all-volunteer military team on April 25, 1980. After the mission was abandoned, three marines and five air force servicemen died when a helicopter and a transport plane collided in Iran's Great Salt Desert. Six former hostages, including former Ambassador Bruce Laingen, joined relatives of the dead servicemen for the ceremony sponsored by No Greater Love, a humanitarian organisation that aids the families of victims of war and terrorism.

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|---|--------------------------|
| Tel: 73111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME LINE | |
| 14:30 | Children programme |
| 16:15 | Cooking programme |
| 16:30 | Arabic series |
| 17:30 | Health programme |
| 18:00 | Religious period |
| 18:30 | Ramadan contest |
| 18:35 | Arabic series |
| 19:40 | Programme review |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Arabic series |
| 21:30 | Programme review |
| 21:40 | Religious series |
| 22:25 | Riddle |
| 23:00 | News in Arabic |
| 23:15 | Arabic play |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Coultures |
| 18:30 | Documentary about plants |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | Strongmen |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 19:45 | Varieties |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Beauty and the Beast |
| 21:00 | News in English |
| 22:30 | Feature film |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 03:26 | Fajr |
| 04:50 | Sunrise |
| 11:33 | Dhuhr |
| 15:12 | Asr |
| 18:13 | Maghreb |
| 19:41 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth Tel. 810740 | |

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Yusuf Al Hourani | 625478 |
| Dr. Akram Samhan | 894611 |
| Dr. Amr Al Ashhab | 602507 |
| Dr. Adel Dabboush | 893644 |
| Firas pharmacy | 661912 |
| Ferdous pharmacy | 778336 |
| Al Asma pharmacy | 637025 |
| Naimulrah pharmacy | 626762 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 649495 |
| Shmeisani pharmacy | 637660 |

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| IRBID: | |
| Dr. Shindich Al Zagh | (—) |
| Al Shraaf pharmacy | 985231 |

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| ZARQA: | |
| Dr. Khamsi Ja'ban | (—) |
| Khalifeh pharmacy | 485417 |

EMERGENCIES

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Civil Defence Immediate | |
| Rescue | 630341 |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 199 |
| Rescue Police | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | 62309093 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Public Police | 65630991 |
| Public Security Department | |
| Police | 656000 / 685111 |
| Hotel Complaints | 605880 |
| Price Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | |

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Complaints | 897467 |
| Amman Municipality | |
| Complaints | 787131 |
| Telephone Information | |
| (directory assistance) | 12 |
| Jerusalem Calls | 17 |
| Central Amman Telephone | |
| Repairs | 623101 |
| Abdull Telephone Repairs | 661101 |
| Radiant Television | 731111 |
| Radiant Radio | 741111 |
| Water Authority | 680100 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |
| Electric Power | |
| Cooperatives | 636381 |
| RJ Flight Information | 08-53200 |
| Queen Alia Int'l. Airport | 08-52000 |

HOSPITALS

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| AMMAN: | |
| Husseini Medical Centre | 813813/332 |
| Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. | 644281/6 |
| Al-Jalal Maternity, J. Amn. | 644241/2 |
| Jabal Amman Maternity | 623262 |
| Malhas, J. Amman | 636140 |
| Palestine, Shmeisani | 664171/4 |
| Shmeisani Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 845845 |
| Al-Musharraf Hospital | 667227/9 |
| The Islamic, Abdull | 668127/7 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdull | 664164/6 |
| Italian, Al-Muhajireen | 777101/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh | 775112/6 |
| Army, Marks | 891611/5 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 602409/0 |
| Amal Hospital | 674153 |
| ZARQA: | |
| Zarqa Govt. Hospital | (09)983323 |
| Zarqa National Hospital | (09)991071 |
| Im Sina Hospital | (09)986732 |
| IRBID: | |

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Princess Basma Hospital | (02)725555 |
| Greek Catholic Hospital | (02)722277 |
| Im Al Nafes Hospital | (02)747100 |
| AQABA: | |
| Princess Haya Hospital | (03)314111 |

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

| | |
|-------|------------------------|
| 08:15 | Dubai (TU) |
| 09:10 | Santa (LH) |
| 12:15 | Baghdad (IA) |
| 13:20 | Muscat, Bahrain (GF) |
| 13:30 | Kuwait (KU) |
| 14:25 | Dhahran (TC) |
| 15:00 | Bucharest (RO) |
| 16:25 | Riyadh (SV) |
| 18:00 | Amsterdam, Athens (KL) |
| 18:45 | Cairo (MS) |
| 18:35 | Frankfurt (LH) |
| 19:10 | Zurich, Larnaca (SR) |
| 09:05 | London, Cairo (BA) |

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 06:55 | Aqaba (RJ) |
| 10:40 | Tripoli (RJ) |
| 10:45 | Rome (RJ) |
| 11:00 | Athens (RJ) |
| 12:10 | Larnaca (RJ) |
| 12:15 | Paris (RJ) |
| 12:15 | Frankfurt, London (RJ) |
| 19:40 | Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 20:10 | Baghdad (RJ) |
| 20:15 | Jeddah (RJ) |
| 20:15 | Vientiane, Miami (RJ) |
| 20:20 | Cairo (RJ) |
| 20:20 | Muscat (RJ) |
| 20:30 | Dubai, Kuwait (RJ) |
| 21:00 | Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |
| 21:30 | Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ) |
| 22:30 | Bangkok (RJ) |

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| 09:15 | Tunis (TU) |
| 10:10 | Frankfurt (LH) |

King's call ushers new era — Tal

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein's call on various ministries and public organisations to conduct a comprehensive revision and re-organisation, places all Jordanians face to face with a new era of diligent work towards brighter and more prosperous future, Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment's Secretary General Awad Tal announced here Wednesday.

There is a great need now to double efforts and to shoulder full responsibilities for the sake of maintaining the momentum of construction and development, Tal said at a meeting with directors of the ministry's various departments.

The King's address, Tal said, served as a call on all citizens to help their country overcome the present difficult circumstances. Tal emphasised the important role of the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs in fusing the various local communities' efforts and enhancing cooperation to serve the higher national interests.

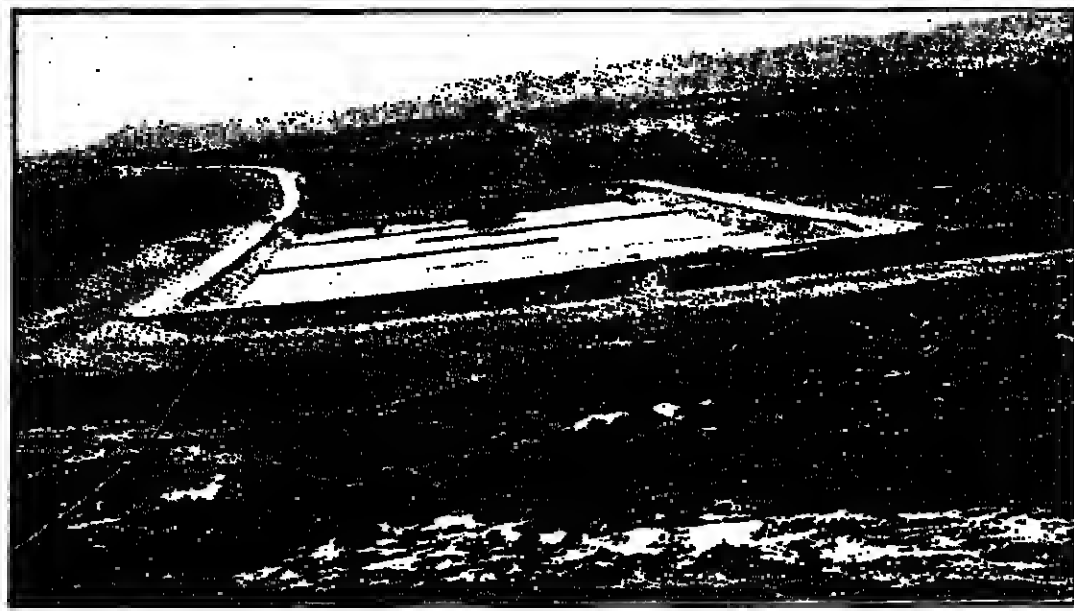
On Tuesday directors of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in various

provinces gathered at the Ministry of Awqaf to discuss issues related to the work of their respective departments and the role of preachers in mosques.

Addressing the meeting was the ministry's secretary general Ahmad Hilayel who urged the heads of these departments to launch open and constructive dialogue with citizens in their own regions with the purpose of building strong bridges with all sectors. He said that in his meeting with the ministries' secretary general on Monday King Hussein expressed his confidence that the different departments will pursue the work for construction and for maintaining the march towards development.

Seminars and gatherings for dialogues in various areas, Hilayel said, will be part of the ongoing process towards bolstering ties among the members of the Jordanian family.

Hilayel emphasised the important role of mosque preachers who, he said, ought to contribute positively towards cementing ties within the Jordanian family and offer their share in the national effort aimed to overcome the present difficult stage.



Khirbet As Samra treatment plant treats Amman's waste water (file photo)

Country's inadequate sewage systems flood in winter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's 14 waste water treatment plants are not sufficient to cope with amounts of water reaching them during the rainy season, and some of them last winter faced an increase of 1,000 per cent over capacity, according to the director of the ministry's central operations department Saqr Al Salem.

The plants have been set up to deal only with sewerage and waste water and to use the treated water for irrigation purposes, Salem said in an interview with Al Dustour daily published Wednesday.

He said that there was no way that sewerage systems can work according to plan during the winter season in Jordan because rain water as well as the sewerage and other effluence pour into the sewers which in turn carry the whole lot to the waste water treatment plants.

According to Salem, the plant installed at Salt, for example, received 9,480 cubic metres of water daily during the past winter

season, compared with the plant's maximum capacity of 500 cubic metres.

Salem said rain water falling on homes, on the streets and swamps has found its way to the sewers along with the waste water.

When waste water treatment plants were planned, he said, they were not designed to take in so much water and therefore failure is bound to occur.

Salem said that when sewers can not absorb all the rain water there will be an overflow into the streets of rain water mixed with water from the sewers. If the manholes are opened to take in rain water flowing off the streets, a lot of stones and mud are carried down into the sewers causing blockages, Salem added.

There, according to ministry officials here.

The delegation, comprising 12 students and two teachers had made tours of the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan, and they plan to go to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip Thursday to study the refugee situation

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SSC assets total JD 254 million

Social Security Corporation turns 10

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Social Security Corporation (SSC) has called on beneficiaries who reached retirement age to declare whether they wish to take their old age benefits in lump sum or receive monthly pension. For men, the retirement age is 60 and for women it is 55, according to the SSC law; but retirees can continue to pay premiums until the age of 65 if they still have to complete the required period to deserve compensation, SSC Director General Mahdi Al Farhan announced Wednesday.



Mahdi Farhan

Farhan made the statement on the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the SSC in the Kingdom. According to the SSC law, individuals can benefit from the SSC pension if they reach the retirement age provided that they were paying premiums for at least 10 years. Any beneficiary, Farhan noted, can send a request to the SSC headquarters on whether he or she would like to take the compensation in lump sum or in the form of pension.

Beneficiaries who have not paid for at least 10 years and wish to be included in the pension scheme have to pay for the previous years and make up the difference, Farhan noted.

The SSC provides services to 515,000 people, Jordanians and others living and working in the

Kingdom, according to Farhan. He said that since 1980 when the SSC was established, a total of 145,000 citizens have benefited from the SSC compensation scheme, including 6,000 who are now on the SSC's pension payroll.

Altogether, the SSC has paid JD 11.5 million in pension, of which JD 4 million were paid in compensation for death.

Dr. Farhan said that lump sum compensation is paid to women if they leave work to get married and settle at home, Jordanians and foreigners upon finally leaving the country to settle abroad and Jordanians who are convicted by court and are sent to prison to serve for at least five years.

Otherwise, Farhan noted, any one covered by the SSC law is

entitled to benefit from the SSC pension scheme provided he or she had paid dues for at least 10 years or reached the age of retirement.

Farhan said that the SSC now has assets in cash and real estate estimated at JD 254 million, accumulated from the premiums paid by the beneficiaries since 1980.

According to an SSC report earlier this month, SSC funds are invested in agricultural, tourist, industrial, banking and other projects and part of the funds are in the form of shares in major companies, earning profits for the SSC beneficiaries.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

MAY DAY: All government departments and public institutions in Jordan will remain closed on Monday May 1 on the occasion of Labour Day.

MARKETING: A group of 170 British businessmen from the Austin Rover car manufacturing group has ended a four day visit to Jordan. The group's stay was organised by the Amman Plaza Hotel in the course of the hotel's ongoing contributions towards marketing the Kingdom abroad.

SHARE PAID: Sudan has paid its share for the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU)'s 1989 budget despite its current hardships and economic difficulties, according to the Amman based CAEU headquarters. A council's spokesman said that the move reflects Sudan's commitment to the Arab League's organisations and its efforts to enable them to carry out their programmes.

SADDAM'S BIRTHDAY: The Iraqi ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein is holding a reception at Amra Hotel in Amman on Thursday evening on the occasion of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's birthday that falls on Friday. A Iraqi embassy spokesman said that the reception will be attended by Iraqi nationals in Jordan and an audience of invited guests and members of the diplomatic missions. Following the reception there will be a variety of Iraqi national folk show.

Preparing for 1992's big event: Armouti coordinates Jordan's effort

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian national committee for the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition and the commemoration of the quincentennial of the discovery of America is expected to start its mandate this week when it holds its first meeting in Amman Saturday, according to the committee's chairman Dr. Mazen Armouti, who is also Jordan's commissioner general for the quincentennial and the exposition.

The committee, according to Armouti, has a three-fold task on its hand: To coordinate and crystallise efforts at the national level of both the private and public sectors related to celebrations of the quincentennial of the discovery of America; to coordinate and execute Jordanian participation in the Seville Universal Exposition of 1992 including determining the form of such participation; coordinating, devising and following-up plans of participation of Arab and Islamic civilisation to Spanish history and the European renaissance.

Celebrations related to the three events are expected to start this year and to culminate in 1992, the quincentennial of the discovery of America. Quincentennial celebrations include cultural, tourist, informational and scientific activities in the form of exhibitions, festivals, seminars, media and informational programmes and publication of books and other material under the general theme "the age of discovery and international cooperation."

The 1992 Seville Universal Exposition, is expected to be the largest event of its kind and to attract approximately 28 million visitors, Armouti told the Jordan Times in a recent interview. More than 85 countries, including up to 12 Arab countries are taking part in the exposition which takes place between April and October 1992 in Seville, Andalusia.

A "Al Andalusia 1992" committee was specially formed in appreciation of the "special contribution of Arab Islamic civilisation to Spanish history and the European renaissance," according to Armouti. Activities of the committee will include cultural and communication activities such as the publishing of books and holding seminars on the subject.

Asked what significance will Jordan's participation in the celebrations have on the country, Armouti said such participation would offer "an opportunity for interacting with other cultures and for promoting Jordan's image" abroad, especially in Europe and the Western Hemisphere.

Such participation, he said, will also give Jordan an opportunity to expose its heritage to the world, including its books, publications, cultural output and other human activities. It will also help "assert the historical impact of Arabic culture on Western civilisation and the renaissance," Armouti said.

As for the cost of such participation, Armouti said "Jordan will not incur heavy costs" be-



Dr. Mazen Armouti, the Jordanian commissioner general for the 1992 Seville Universal Exposition and the commemoration of the quincentennial of the discovery of America, during the recent international planning session for the Exposition in Seville, Spain.

cause the venues and facilities are already provided for. Jordan will have to pay for the transport of cultural groups, exhibition material, in addition to building a pavilion in Seville.

Members of Jordan's national committee include dean of the faculty of scientific research at the University of Jordan Dr. Adnan Al Bakhit, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Secretary General Dr. Hani Al Amad, Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atalla, Ministry of Information Secretary General Trad Al Fayed, Jordan's Ambassador to Spain Mohammad Al Idwan, head of the international relations department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Khalil Othman, Royal Jordanian Vice President for Public Relations Munih Touqan, Islamic architecture specialist engineer Raseem Badran, Professor of Andalusian history at the University of Jordan Dr. Mohammad Abdoh Hatameleh, head of the accounting department at the Ministry of Finance Abdul

Hamid Al Hiyari, head of the buildings department at the Ministry of Public Works engineer Bashir Al Jagheer. The committee has been appointed by the Council of Ministers and is linked through its chairman with the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

The commissioner general, Dr. Armouti has already been accredited as the Jordanian government's representative with the Spanish national commission for the quincentennial and the exposition, and coordinator of the efforts by various Jordanian institutions in their contributions to the events.

Dr. Armouti has paid two official visits to Spain during which he met with Luis Yanez, the minister of international cooperation, who heads the Spanish commission, and with other officials in the commission and the Expo administration.

He also attended the recent meeting in Seville of the college of commissioners in its first planning meeting for the universal exposition.

Specifications for lifts

AMMAN (J.T.) — A technical committee preparing a national building code Wednesday endorsed regulations and specifications for lifts in buildings and walls. Meeting under the chairmanship of Khalaf Hawwari, secretary general of the Ministry of Public Works, the committee revised proposed amendments to

the regulations and specifications on thermal insulation in buildings and the formation of specialised sub-committees to decide on space that should be left between buildings, and regulations governing retaining walls.

The Ministry of Public Works in cooperation with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) is preparing a national building code.

WIL calls for solidarity against Israel

MECCA (Petra) — The World Islamic League (WIL) has issued a call to all Muslims to help stop Israel's criminal actions in the occupied Arab territories and its acts of sacrilege, at the Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem and the other holy places in the occupied Palestinian lands.

The call which was made in a statement issued here, also urged all governments and peace loving nations to stand firm in the face of Israel's repressive measures

and its atrocities against the Palestinians. It urged those countries which support Israel materially and morally to refrain from doing so and to help re-establish justice in Palestine and end the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

The statement expressed the Muslim countries' concern over Israel's continued violations of Palestinian human rights and desecration of religious places in Palestine.

WORLD RESOURCES

Announces the official opening of their shop at Amra Hotel Shopping Centre.

- * Jewelry in 21 and 18 carat gold
- * Precious gems
- * Gifts made of precious and semi-precious stones.

Visit our unique shop at Amra Hotel Shopping Centre.

Amra appoints Rausch food, beverage manager

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amra Hotel in Amman has appointed Peter Rausch as food and beverage manager in a bid to maintain the best services for customers. Rausch is a well seasoned manager who had earlier served at famous hotels in London, Frankfurt, and Vienna.

Amra Hotel has been holding nightly celebrations since the beginning of the Holy Month of Ramadan and has been offering specially prepared dishes and an assortment of sweets. Rausch has been instrumental in the preparations and serving dishes to the taste of all customers.



Peter Rausch



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WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by French artist Jean-Francois Noble at Haya Arts Centre.
- * An exhibition of books and handicrafts at Princess Alia College.
- * A scientific book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.

RAMADAN SOUQ

- * Ramadan open-air market, which includes foodstuffs, clothes, home appliances and children's toys at Mahatta, eastern Amman.
- * International Ramadan Souq, in which 14 Arab and Islamic countries are taking part, at the International Auto Centre, Queen Alia International Airport Highway.

FILMS

- * A feature film entitled "In the Heat of the Night" at the American Centre — 4:30 p.m.

THEATRE

- * An Arabic play entitled "Satans' Laws" shown as part of the cultural festival of the Jordanian community colleges, at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

ANGLICAN CHURCH IN AMMAN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES 1989

Palm Sunday, 23.4.89

8 a.m. Holy Communion
6 p.m. Family Communion, with blessing of Palms.

Maundy Thursday, 27.4.89

5.30 p.m. Commemoration of the Last Supper, with washing of the feet.

Good Friday, 28.4.89

6.30 p.m. Joint Arabic/English Service.

Holy Saturday, 29.4.89

8.00 p.m. Easter Vigil and Renewal of Baptismal Vows.

Easter Day, 30.4.89

6.00 a.m. Easter Day Sunrise Service at Mount Nebo
6.00 p.m. Easter Evening Service

Clergy: The Revd. William Taylor 628543
The Revd. Velli Jarvinen 822605

A VERY HAPPY AND BLESSED EASTER TO ALL — "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

Easter

28-4-89 Join us for an appetizing seafood dinner at our elegant "LE RELAIS"

30-4-89 Meet "Phil" our rabbit & his friends, enjoy a sumptuous Easter lunch buffet then join in our egg colouring contest.

For additional information & reservations please call 663100 extension - 2021.

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The Philadelphia
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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية

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A new beginning

HAVING lived through the past few days of turbulence resulting from the destructive actions taken by protesters against price hikes of some goods, His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the nation Wednesday gave the country a renewed hope and a revived sense of purpose.

The King's determined pledge to eliminate the root causes of discontent among the people over recent economic austerity measures demonstrates his firm commitment to the country's development and progress. While it is no easy task that confronts the country's leadership and its people, one of the major elements that should contribute positively to the process of readjustment is participation and contribution by every citizen. It entails constructive action coupled with broad dialogue to help smooth the path that lies ahead.

The King's pledge for early parliamentary elections is a manifestation of his quest to achieve the goal of grassroots participation in the decision-making process. At the same time, his firm warning against anyone who seeks to tamper with national security and stability should serve as a strong deterrent to those who, wittingly or unwittingly, play into the hands of the enemy by carrying out or encouraging actions that cause damage to the infrastructure that Jordan has painstakingly built over the years.

In Jordan or anywhere else in the world, progress and development could only be nurtured and maintained in an atmosphere of security and stability and anyone who tries to undermine it cannot but be trying to block the process and development of the country. The pressures that have been brought upon to bear on Jordan that the King alluded to in his speech Wednesday were by no means a coincidence. In fact, part of the problems that Jordan faces today is the direct result of such pressures initiated by the hands of the enemy; and the massive destruction of public property that the Kingdom witnessed last week was one of the goals of such pressures, however indirect they might be. And hence His Majesty's stern warning.

Jordan has indeed made a new turn in its history and, hopefully, a fresh impetus will be given to its quest to be self-reliant. But that impetus is a responsibility of its citizens as much as it is of the leadership. Pinning blame, individually or collectively, for our economic problems at this point in time is a useless exercise and waste of precious time which should be utilised to build on what we have today.

We are on the verge of a new beginning in national life and let us realise and appreciate the importance of what lies ahead. Sacrifices will have to be made but to the noble cause of building our nation.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

JORDANIAN Arabic dailies Wednesday dealt in their editorials with King Hussein's directives to the secretaries general of various ministries in which he called for a general revision of the whole situation in the country and urged all citizens to cooperate closely in safeguarding the nation's highest interests. Al Ra'i daily said it was natural for the King to take this step and to call on all citizens to remove all negative aspects and influences that might impede the momentum of development. Revision and re-assessment are two important factors at the moment since they help us plan ahead in all matters and help us to discover our faults and our shortcomings in preparation for continued march towards the aspired progress, the paper noted. The re-organisation of the Jordanian home, the paper noted, should entail the process of re-assessment and persistence in implementing development plans. The Jordanian family, the paper added, takes pride in its leadership and the courageous and wise actions of King Hussein who continues to provide his family with care and direct its members towards a brighter and prosperous future.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Wednesday tackled the stalled Iraqi-Iranian negotiations and the lack of progress in the talks for the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 to bring about a lasting peace in the Gulf. Mahmoud Rimawi says that except for a ceasefire and the on and off sessions the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations have proved differences still persist and there is nothing that prevents an outbreak of conflict. The writer notes that Iraq is well prepared for a lasting peace and has set up a new parliament and is reorganising its home and celebrating its victories in the eight year war. For its part Iran is bogged down in internal strife and a struggle for power which in turn is impeding the negotiations and making it more difficult for U.N. mediation efforts to succeed, the writer adds. He criticises Tehran for failing to implement U.N. resolutions for reaching a lasting settlement and Iran's continued violation of the ceasefire agreement along the border. He says that as long as the Iranians are adamant in their position, peace in the Gulf region will remain as remote as ever.

Al Dustour daily described King Hussein's address to the secretaries general of the various ministries as serving as a message to the whole country and directives to its citizens. The paper said that the King has thus made it clear that Jordan is facing tremendous challenges and hardships which require patience and self-reliance and dedication to serving the nation. The King has breathed hope in the hearts of his people and urged them to shoulder their responsibilities and safeguard their country's highest interests, the paper said. Jordan, as the King pointed out, is now at the threshold of a new stage of comprehensive reorganisation and this requires cooperation on the part of all citizens. It said that the Jordanian family will back the King's endeavours and go along with him in his efforts to confront the challenges and in preserving Jordan as a strong fortress defending the Arab homeland.

PLO and the intifada — a fruitful relationship

By Muin Rabbani

THE role and influence of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the development, institutionalisation and direction of the current popular uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been fiercely contested since almost the moment it began by Palestinian, Arab and foreign observers alike. While few continue to deny the leading role which has been and continues to be exercised by the Palestinian national movement in the occupied territories, changing political circumstances have at the same time transformed the nature of the debate.

With the prospects of a political arrangement involving the active participation of the PLO appearing greater in early 1989 than at any other time since the organisation was established in 1964, two paramount questions have emerged. To the press corps and policy analysts, the main concern has become whether the PLO leadership in Tunis, Damascus, and Baghdad can effectively control the streets of Gaza, Jerusalem, and Nablus. Palestinian and Arab activists and intellectuals, on the other hand, are taking part in a different discussion altogether. For this latter group, the primary issue is whether the apparent international breakthrough achieved by the PLO in Algiers, Stockholm and Geneva this winter has justified the historic concessions such as an opening required. While the Palestinian leadership is being credited with a skillful management of the intifada which has brought Palestinian national aspirations significantly closer to fruition, it is also facing apprehension that it has embarked upon a dangerous journey which puts both the uprising itself and the future of the Palestinian struggle at risk.

The PLO's pre-eminence. The relationship between the Palestinian leadership in exile and the residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is a complex

one which cannot be reduced to simple questions about the one's "control" of the other. Although the PLO is banned in the occupied territories and thus cannot operate publicly, the movement has an active presence in these regions. Most important, it commands the allegiance of the overwhelming mass of Palestinians. This has been borne out not only by various public opinion polls but also by the only municipal elections the nationalist forces ever contested — the 1976 PLO victory at the polls was so decisive that Israel has refused to repeat the exercise since.

Second, the constituent factions of the PLO, Fatah, the PFLP, the DFLP and the Palestine Communist Party, maintain cadres, cells, and a variety of informally affiliated popular organisations in the occupied territories, and their number has grown significantly since 1982, when the PLO lost its independent base of operations in Beirut. These nationalist activists are thoroughly integrated into their communities — they come from them — and furthermore also provide many of the services, such as medical relief and social networks, which the PLO provides to the Palestinians in exile. Additionally, the ideological compatibility of Palestinian nationalism with other currents has allowed it to co-opt or otherwise neutralise important indigenous challenges, such as that of Islamic Jihad. This last point, however, may be changing somewhat with the recent establishment of the avowedly anti-nationalist Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

The role of the United National Command

The first year of the popular uprising should have put to rest any doubts about the pre-eminence of the PLO in the occupied territories. It was nationalist activists who organised the massive demonstrations and general strikes which characterised the early months of the uprising.

Similarly, it was the Unified National Command (UNC), consisting of cadres from the four PLO factions mentioned above, which took on the political leadership of the revolt. By most accounts it enjoys the full as well as voluntary support and confidence of the vast majority of Palestinians under occupation, and this precisely because it is indistinguishable from the PLO. As the uprising entered its second year in December 1988 it became clear not only that the rebellion was made possible by the extensive PLO infrastructure which had been nurtured over the years in the West Bank and Gaza, but also that it could not have been sustained without it.

While it is one thing to show that the PLO is not external to the occupied territories, enjoys tremendous support there, and is the only viable indigenous movement (as indicated by the oft-repeated slogan: "The PLO is the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people is the PLO"), it is quite another to gauge popular Palestinian support for a particular line being followed by the leadership in Tunis. Until this point, it has been conventional wisdom to state that while the Unified National Command directs the revolt and receives the required assistance from outside, the executive committee of the PLO takes the political decisions at the international level which are to achieve the shared goal of the two — an end to the occupation.

Because the UNC is a local grouping which must by force of circumstance function clandestinely and the PLO leadership, which represents Palestinians everywhere, has international experience but not the intimate, minute-by-minute knowledge of conditions in the territories, it was above all a logical division of labour. Its workings were made most obvious during the Palestine National Council session in Algiers (November 1988), when the "external branch" proclaimed statehood and began a wide-rang-

ing diplomatic campaign for recognition while the "internal branch" organised support demonstrations in the defence of a massive Israeli military build-up and curfews which confined more than 1,000,000 people to their homes.

United behind Arafat?

Indeed, public opposition to the Declaration of Statehood in Algiers and the further concessions offered by the executive committee chairman, Yasser Arafat, in Geneva, has been noteworthy for its relative absence. While the PFLP painted slogans denouncing Security Council Resolution 242 and 338 and distributed speeches by Dr. George Habash, questioning the statements made by Arafat in Geneva, no one appears willing to risk an open confrontation which could (and probably would) split the UNC and spell the end of the uprising. Only the Muslim fundamentalist group, Hamas, hoping to capitalise on what it perceives to be popular disillusionment with a two-state solution, has intensified its attacks on the "treason" of the PLO. But its impact, as indicated by its violent enforcement of general strikes (as opposed to voluntary participation in those called by the UNC) is limited and may soon reach its saturation point.

While there is said to be a sense of resignation, if not betrayal, felt privately by many Palestinians in the camps of Lebanon and Syria, the situation in the occupied territories is somewhat different. It is these regions, and particularly the West Bank (whose refugee camp population is only 15 per cent), which have the most to gain from an Israeli withdrawal and a two-state solution. Additionally, the imperatives of the moment, as suggested above, have demanded national unity and have not been conducive to the fierce debate one might have expected. And, the moment of truth is still too distant to allow an open rift to develop.

Abdul Haq, Afghan rebel commander plotting fall of Kabul

By Grant McCoil

Reuters

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — In a quiet suburban house, Afghan guerrilla commander Abdul Haq plots the fall of Kabul.

He uses computers to store plans for military operations, strikes and civil disobedience in the Afghan capital and has detailed maps hidden behind sliding screens.

"It's a waiting game for Haq, one of the most effective rebel commanders to have emerged from the 10-year Afghan war."

"The difference between us and other Mujahedeen is that we work inside the city with the people, the Afghan army, police forces and different regime forces within the city," he said in an interview at his guarded home in the north-western Pakistani city of Peshawar.

Fighting against Afghan Communists has aged him far beyond his 30 years. His thinning hair, lined face and plastic artificial foot are among the physical scars of more than a decade of war.

"I have a belief that we've got to stop one day... It is sometimes too much," said Haq, commander for the Kabul area of the Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) Party, one of seven Pakistan-based Muslim guerrilla groups fighting the Soviet-backed government.

Controversial for his criticism of the politicians in the seven-party alliance who formed an interim government in exile in February, Haq is frank about the failings or rebel strategy in the siege of the south-western city of Jalalabad.

"There was no contact between them and the people in the city, it turned to conventional war. But the main problem is that the Mujahedeen were too strong in that area, and they became too proud of themselves and did not use their brains," he said.

"I know the regime is out strong there. I know the people do not want to fight for the regime or die for them, but the Mujahedeen made them fight for survival."

The stubborn defence of garrisons around the city, attacked in early March, has surprised the Mujahedeen and their Western supporters who predicted a quick victory.

The rebels, heartened by the relatively easy capture of the important government post at near-by Samarkhel, pressed on to the airport but were stalled by air force bombing and the presence of dense minefields.

"Let me show you something," says Haq, getting up and walking across to his desk in his thick, carpeted study. It is a copy of a magazine interview published in

May last year in which he warned against such an assault on Jalalabad, saying the loss of possibly thousands of lives would not be worth it.

"So now if they carry on it will be bad and if they pull back that will also be bad," Haq said.

Wounded 15 times, his foot smashed by a landmine at Paghman west of the capital 18 months ago, Haq has seen enough killing to make him prudent when it comes to committing his men to the task of overthrowing the capital without a massive artillery assault that would risk killing civilians and losing sympathy.

"We have to find a way to minimise the bloodshed... It is a question of tactics and strategy which can take care of the regime in such a way you don't lose many people."

Haq said there was a network of 150 to 200 groups under his command, some of them working within the government, among the city's 2.5 million people.

"Our plan is to wear the regime down with strikes or civil disobedience. Where the people cannot put the pressure on from

the inside, the soldiers will apply pressure from the outside," said Haq, a short, round man.

Haq said he had taken part in three coup attempts by the age of 18, the last of which brought him arrest and a death sentence. "The regime changed and my family bribed them to get me out."

Based in exile in Pakistan with other anti-Communists since 1976, Haq has served as commander in his home province of Nangarhar, of which Jalalabad is the capital, and in the Kabul area. He took over operations in Kabul in mid-1980, five months after the Soviet Union sent its troops to prop up the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan. The last Soviet troops withdrew February 15 this year.

Haq said he has been under pressure from Pakistan, other Mujahedeen groups, the United States government and the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency to launch an assault on Kabul.

"Too many people have been in our country and now we want to be left alone," said the commander, who is married with two daughters and a son.

Haq's foot injury limits his forays into Afghanistan to one month or six weeks a year.

"When I do go I hurt my back and my shoulder because I keep falling down... I just try my best. I know I'm not wonderful, but I feel kind of guilty not to go."



A sense of apprehension.

Yet, even though there is a clear consensus in favour of the Algiers programme and all which it entails, one can also sense a certain amount of apprehension with the rapidly developing international political situation. These fears were succinctly articulated in a PFLP political statement which was circulated shortly before the PNC session. The intifada, it was asserted, presents a new revolutionary opening which should be strengthened, not merely another political card to be played at the first opportunity. Thus, the rebellion should be utilised by the PLO in developing a long-term strategy aimed at changing the overall balance of power in the region rather than exploited to get the best possible deal under the existing circumstances of U.S.-Israeli hegemony. As a UNC leaflet had put it a few months earlier, "Israel is no stronger than America and we are no less than the people of Vietnam." The concern expressed by the PFLP was that if the PLO loses the gamble it has taken, it will have to pay up much

more than it has put on the table. Indeed, a premature halt to the uprising may well mean the end of the Palestinian struggle for the foreseeable future.

In the meantime the uprising continues unabated. Any suggestion of a ceasefire in the absence of concrete progress toward an independent Palestinian state is met with immediate hostility by both the Palestinian street, the UNC and the PLO leadership. This may provide an answer to the persistent question as to whether Arafat can call an end to the revolt. He is unlikely to consider the proposition until the minimum demands set forth in the Algiers programme have been accepted by the USA and Israel. At that point, given the balance of forces within the PLO, the expected acquiescence of the UNC, the amount of suffering which has been endured by the general population, and the depth of support the proclamation of statehood enjoys, we may begin to see the beginning of a truce. If that point is not reached within a realistic period of time, however, anything may happen.

OPEN FORUM

WHY IS OUR EASTER IN JORDAN LATE?

By Father Musa Adeli

THIS is a question much asked by visitors coming into Jordan. Sometimes it is asked with a sense of shock! This year many pilgrims came to Amman from Jerusalem after celebrating Easter there on March 26. Entering a Catholic Church in Jordan, they were astounded to discover that they were still in Lent. They ask in astonishment: Why is Easter in Jordan five weeks later this year?

The reason, of course, is simple: there are two different calendars. In this day and age? Yes, in this day and age.

We take our calendars for granted. At the end of each year, we find the new ones all ready for us. But suppose we had to make our own. What would we do? Well, to start with, we've to decide if we wanted to divide the year into months and weeks and days and hours. If we did, how would we make the division? One way would be by measuring how long it takes the earth to revolve around the sun; this is the solar year. Another way would be by measuring how long it takes the moon to go around the earth; this is the lunar year.

If we made measurements, we would discover that in the solar year there are 365 days and something more (5 hours, 48 minutes and 45.5 seconds). The lunar year is shorter: only 354 days and something more (11.25 days). Thus we would discover that neither the solar year nor the lunar year can be evenly divided into days, weeks and months. So what to do? If we are making our own calendar, we would probably not consider the lunar month, since it lacks more than 11 days. We would have to tinker with the solar year. We would have to find some way of regularly adding in the extra 5 hours, 48 minutes and 45.5 seconds.

Since the earliest times people made their calendars and then adjusted them when they discovered that the extra time caused difficulties. The original Roman calendar had 304 days. In 45 B.C. Julius Caesar introduced the solar calendar, which became known as the Julian calendar. It contained a "leap year" every fourth year. But this arrangement was not quite accurate enough. The world was waiting for some one to come along and adjust it.

That person was Pope Gregory XIII who introduced a more refined arrangement that carries his name, the Gregorian calendar (or the "New Style" calendar). It slowly came to be adopted in Europe, such as Great Britain in 1752, and Russia in 1918.

While Greece adopted the Gregorian calendar for civil purposes in 1923, the Orthodox Church retained the Julian calendar for the celebration of its feast. That is why in Jordan, the Orthodox date for Easter is different from the Easter date in the rest of the West. The Islamic calendar, which has as its starting date July 16, 622 A.D., the day after the Hijra, is a lunar calendar with twelve lunar months of 29 or 30 days with added days ("intercalated"), as they are called, based on a 30-year cycle.

For those who celebrate Easter this Sunday our most cordial wishes and greetings. This is also an appropriate time to invite all to pray for peace... for peace everywhere.

Easter Programme

Religious services in all Christian churches during the holy week are at 5 p.m. onwards (in Arabic)

In English they run as follows:
Maundy Thursday (27/4/1989) Mass at 5 p.m.
Good Friday (28/4/1989) Prayers (12.00 a.m.)
Holy Saturday (29/4/1989) Mass at 10.00 p.m.
Easter Sunday (30/4/1989) Mass at 5.00 p.m.

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EN BREF

Le président nord-yéménite à Amman

Le président du Nord-Yémen, M. Ali Abdullah Saleh, s'est rendu à Amman lundi où il a rencontré le roi Hussein de Jordanie. Le souverain haïmène a notamment expliqué à son hôte la "nature des événements" qui se sont déroulés depuis mardi dans le royaume. Il a également assuré de la "normalisation de la situation" et a souligné la "capacité" de son pays à surmonter cette "crise passagère". Le roi Hussein a en outre fait part au président nord-yéménite des résultats de ses récentes visites en France et aux États-Unis. Cette rencontre faisait suite à la venue du président irakien Saddam Hussein, dimanche, dans la capitale jordanienne.

Sida, URSS, environnement à la une dans le monde.

Trois grands sujets domineront les soirées des téléspectateurs du monde entier la semaine prochaine: le sida, les changements économiques et politiques en URSS et les problèmes de pollution. Ces trois thèmes reviennent en effet régulièrement dans les catalogues des producteurs de télévision, présents au 26e MIP-TV (Marché international des programmes de télévision) qui s'est ouvert samedi dernier à Cannes, dans le sud-est de la France.

Khomeyni pour la réforme de la constitution

L'imam Khomeyni a approuvé lundi les démarches conjointes du Parlement iranien et du Conseil judiciaire supérieur en faveur d'un amendement de la constitution du pays. Le guide de la révolution a nommé une commission de vingt députés, parmi les plus hauts responsables de la République islamique, qui sera chargée de la réforme. Réforme qui porte notamment sur la "concentration" des pouvoirs au sein de l'exécutif et du judiciaire iraniens. Le nombre des députés du Parlement devrait par ailleurs être accru.

Le boeuf danois en question

Les abattoirs danois de "Slagtergaard" ont décidé de suspendre toute livraison de viande bovine aux pays arabes après les déclarations des autorités saoudiennes et des Émirats faisant état de traces de porc (1% à 2%) dans les exportations. Selon le directeur des abattoirs danois, ce sont les additifs qui donneraient "les mêmes réactions à l'analyse que la viande porcine". Copenhague prend néanmoins l'affaire très au sérieux. Les livraisons de boeuf haché danois aux pays arabes représentent en effet quelque 85 millions de francs par an.

Une sorcière dans l'armée de l'air

Une jeune recrue de l'armée de l'air américaine, qui s'affirme sorcière, vient d'obtenir de sa base militaire le droit d'observer son propre calendrier de fêtes religieuses. Patricia Hutchins, 21 ans, a bénéficié dans sa requête du soutien efficace de l'aumônier de la base de Lackland, où elle a été affectée. L'histoire ne dit pas si le culte de Wicca, d'origine celtique, dont elle se réclame, interfère ou non avec sa profession d'infirmière.

Un Thaïlandais meilleur récitant du Coran

Le 30e concours international de lecture du Coran s'est achevé lundi à Kuala Lumpur par la victoire d'un ressortissant thaïlandais. Ibrahim Harun s'est imposé devant un Iranien et un Koweïtien. L'épreuve féminine a été remportée par une Malaisienne, Faridah Mat Saman. Les vainqueurs ont empoché un prix de plus de 2000 dollars. Trente cinq récitateurs de vingt cinq pays participaient à ce concours annuel.

Petit homme mortel

Un touriste britannique de 21 ans s'est tué dimanche en tombant du haut de la grande pyramide de Gizeh, près du Caire. Le jeune homme s'était allongé sur l'un des blocs de la pyramide. Assoupi, il a glissé et a fait une chute de plus de 146 mètres.

Premier avion nigérien

Le chef de l'État nigérien, Ibrahim Babangida, a baptisé le premier avion construit par son pays le week-end dernier, à l'occasion du 25e anniversaire de l'armée de l'air du Nigeria. Le prototype, qui reprend le nom de "Coccyus de l'air", doit servir d'appareil d'entraînement aux pilotes de l'armée nationale.

Paris-Istanbul-Damas-Amman...

Ma moto, mon chien et moi

L'Italie, la Yougoslavie, la Grèce, la Turquie, la Syrie, la Jordanie... Thierry Chambon a déjà parcouru plus de 12 000 kilomètres depuis son départ de Paris le 13 février. Sur sa moto, le strict minimum pour voyager... Et "Rox", son chien, couché sur le réservoir, qui partage les aventures.

On connaissait Saint-Roch et son chien, immortalisés par l'icône médiévale. De là à penser qu'un tonton pouvait sans broncher faire le tour du bassin méditerranéen, couché sur le réservoir d'une BMW 800... C'est pourtant l'exploit que réalise depuis deux mois et demi un certain Rox, paisible canidé à poil ras et noir. "Il mérite le livre des records, plaisait son chauffeur et maître Thierry Chambon. D'autant plus que c'est lui qui franchit toujours les frontières le premier."

L'un et l'autre ont quitté Nanterre, en banlieue parisienne, le 13 février. Thierry, 28 ans, rêvait depuis longtemps d'accomplir un long périple. Une fois décidé, il a troqué son travail de frigoriste contre la promesse de grands frissons. "Si je n'avais pas donné ma démission, je n'aurais jamais pu partir", explique-t-il.

Rox a suivi, non sans avoir subi au préalable un sérieux entraînement. "Je l'ai habillé au bruit, aux chocs, à rester sur la moto". Le dressage a porté ses fruits. "Il est d'un calme olympien", affirme Thierry. Et de bonne compagnie. "Beaucoup de gens m'ont demandé sur la route pourquoi je m'étais encombré d'un animal. Je réponds invariablement que c'est mon compagnon, mon ami". N'allez pas en déduire que Thierry est un motard insouciant. "Depuis le début de mon voyage, je suis rarement seul. Le chien, sa couleur notamment, attire les



gens". Pour la plus grande joie, sinon fierté du maître. Thierry Chambon conçoit son aventure comme "un défi" qu'il s'est lancé à lui-même. "Je voulais voir de quoi j'étais capable". Et "voir le monde aussi", tout simplement. Bien qu'il parle peu l'anglais et pas du tout l'arabe, il parvient à se faire comprendre et à "apprendre". "Un sourire, la bonne humeur, ça suffit souvent pour communiquer, échanger des impressions", estime-t-il.

Ainsi évoque-t-il avec chaleur sa rencontre avec des chasseurs dans un refuge du Neumir Dag, en Turquie. "Je me suis retrouvé avec eux un soir. Nous avons partagé la nourriture, j'en ai mangé". Ailleurs, c'est la gentillesse d'un berger qui l'a ému. "Il m'a aidé à grimper sur le toit d'une station-service désaffectée pour que je puisse photographier une cigogne, qui nichait là-haut". Il se souvient aussi des moments difficiles. "En Anatolie, le temps était épouvantable. Vent glacé toute la journée et même tempête de neige". Dans le désert de Syrie, c'est un violent vent de

sable qui l'a cueilli entre Palmyre et Damas. Autant de péripéties qui ne lui ont cependant jamais donné envie de renoncer.

Pas plus que la solitude, qu'il rompt périodiquement en contactant une radio locale privée de Paris, "Aventure FM". "Chaque semaine, je leur téléphone et je raconte mes aventures". Son autre "point d'attache", avec la France, sentimental cette fois, s'appelle Laure. "Elle m'a rejoint en Syrie, où nous avons passé une dizaine de jours ensemble."

En attendant de la retrouver en région parisienne en juin prochain, Thierry poursuit son aventure, qui doit encore le mener, après son étape jordanienne, en Égypte et en Israël. "J'aurais en tout parcouru entre 20 000 et 25 000 kilomètres", pense-t-il. De quoi satisfaire l'énorme soif de connaissance qu'il habite. Une soif qu'il épanche dans un cahier, où il note depuis son départ ses sensations les plus fortes. "Qu'elles soient agréables ou non". Avec une petite idée derrière la tête. "Peut-être écrirai-je un jour le récit de mon voyage", confie-t-il. (A.R.)

La Syrie au sommet arabe

"La Syrie prendra part au sommet arabe extraordinaire convoqué par le Maroc le mois prochain", a confirmé lundi le ministre syrien des Affaires étrangères, en visite à Abu Dhabi. M. Farouk Chareb a également rappelé que Damas était favorable à l'examen de la réintégration de l'Égypte au sein de la Ligue arabe au cours de cette réunion, ajoutant que les relations entre Syrie et le Caire "évoluent de manière satisfaisante et positive". Interrogé sur une éventuelle "réconciliation" entre Damas et Bagdad à l'occasion de ce sommet, le responsable syrien s'est borné à indiquer que "la fin des différends (...) est dans l'intérêt des pays arabes". M. Chareb a d'autre part réaffirmé le soutien de son pays au Comité de la Ligue arabe sur le Liban et son opposition à toute intervention internationale. "Nous rejetons l'internationalisation de la crise libanaise", a-t-il déclaré. (D'après agences)

La mission française terminée

Bombardements au Liban

Les bombardements ont repris à Beyrouth dans la nuit de lundi à mardi, après une semaine de relative accalmie. L'intensification des combats est intervenue quelques heures seulement après la fin de la mission française d'aide humanitaire au Liban.

L'équipe du pétrolier français "Penhors" a dû pousser un "out" de soulèvement en quittant les eaux territoriales libanaises lundi après midi. Après avoir déchargé 2 000 tonnes de fuel au terminal de Zahran, contrôlé par le gouvernement à majorité musulmane de Salim Hoss, puis 4 700 autres aux abords de la centrale électrique de Zouk, en secteur chrétien, le bâtiment a regagné Larnaca. Quelques heures plus tard, le ciel de Beyrouth s'embrasait.

Ces nouveaux duels d'artillerie entre l'armée syrienne et ses alliés, d'une part, et les troupes du général Aoun de l'autre, ont également coïncidé avec l'adoption, par le Conseil de sécurité des Nations-Unies, d'une déclaration

confiant au secrétaire général de l'organisation une "mission de contact" sur le Liban. Mission rejetée par la Syrie. "L'internationalisation de la crise libanaise (...) signifie que la solution au Liban ne sera possible qu'après celle du conflit israëlo-arabe", a indiqué lundi son ministre des Affaires étrangères, Farouk Chareb. Le ravitaillement en fuel de l'usine de Zouk a permis sa remise en marche et à plus de deux millions de Libanais d'être à nouveau alimentés en électricité. La France a par ailleurs demandé dès lundi à la CEE de "mettre en place dès maintenant" une seconde livraison de pétrole au Liban.

La veille, le Koweït avait donné son feu vert à l'accueil dans ses hôpitaux de blessés graves libanais. A l'instar de Paris, qui a organisé la semaine dernière l'évacuation de 89 victimes musulmanes et chrétiennes de la guerre civile. (D'après agences)

Démission du gouvernement Rifai

Le roi Hussein calme le jeu

Le roi Hussein a accepté lundi la démission du premier ministre, Zeid Rifai et de son gouvernement. Cette décision est intervenue une semaine après le début des troubles provoqués par les augmentations de prix et dont le bilan officiel faisait état samedi dernier de 8 morts et 83 blessés.



Zeid Rifai

La vie avait repris son cours normal à Ma'an, Karak, Tafleh et Salt, lundi matin, avant même que ne soit rendue publique la démission du gouvernement de Zeid Rifai. Démission que le roi Hussein a acceptée dans la soirée, en rendant hommage au chef du gouvernement. Le souverain haïmène a notamment souligné "les circonstances délicates et difficiles" dans lesquelles s'est déroulé le mandat de son premier ministre. Il a également rappelé que les efforts de M. Rifai pour "l'assainissement des relations inter-arabes" étaient à l'origine de la création du Conseil de coopération arabe (CCA).

Dans le même temps, le roi Hussein a lancé un appel à la solidarité des Jordaniens pour "dépenser" la crise actuelle et "sauvegarder" le royaume. Il a également demandé aux directeurs généraux des ministères d'expédier les affaires courantes, dans l'attente de la formation d'un nouveau cabinet.

Commentant l'accord conclu le 14 avril avec le Fonds monétaire international (FMI), à l'origine

des augmentations de prix (Le Jourdain des 20-21 avril), le souverain jordanien a estimé que son pays traverse actuellement une période "de réorganisation générale", qui exige "la collaboration de tous". (D'après agences).

Agé de 52 ans, Zeid Rifai avait été nommé premier ministre en avril 1985. Il avait déjà occupé ce poste de 1973 à 1976, cumulant à l'époque les portefeuilles de la Défense et des Affaires étrangères. Il fut auparavant chef du cabinet royal (1969) puis conseiller politique du roi (1972). M. Rifai est diplômé de deux prestigieuses universités américaines, Harvard et Columbia, où il a suivi respectivement des études de sciences politiques puis de droit et relations internationales.

Avant la rencontre Arafat-Mitterrand à Paris

Elections: l'OLP divisée

La majorité des dirigeants de l'OLP, réunis à Tunis du 22 au 24 avril, n'a accepté mardi le principe d'élections dans les territoires occupés, avant même le retrait des troupes israéliennes. A l'issue d'âpres discussions, le FDLP a néanmoins maintenu son refus. L'incertitude qui continue de planer sur cette décision sera vraisemblablement évoquée lors de la rencontre entre MM. Arafat et Mitterrand, le 2 mai à Paris.

Qui à des élections sous occupation israélienne, si l'OLP participait au scrutin. La résistance palestinienne a accompli un nouveau pas en faveur de la paix mardi à Tunis en acceptant la proposition faite la semaine dernière à Washington par Itzhak Shamir. Toutes les organisations de l'OLP n'ont cependant pas accepté le principe d'une consultation avant le retrait des troupes israéliennes de Cisjordanie et de Gaza, comme l'a rappelé Nayef Hawatmeh, le leader du FDLP, toujours opposé à une telle "concession".

Abou Iyad, numéro deux du Fatah, a indiqué pour sa part que cette décision ne signifiait aucunement que l'OLP faisait sien l'idée d'autonomie des territoires occupés avancée par le premier ministre israélien. Abou Iyad a également confirmé qu'une délégation palestinienne se rendrait "sans condition préalable" à Damas après la fin du

Ramadan, afin de promouvoir la "réconciliation" entre l'OLP et la Syrie.

La quasi acceptation du plan Shamir a surpris les observateurs. Les dirigeants palestiniens avaient en effet indiqué dimanche qu'ils venaient d'informer les États-Unis de leur refus d'admettre tout scrutin en présence des militaires israéliens. Un membre du Comité exécutif de l'OLP avait notamment précisé que l'objectif de Tel Aviv consistait à "perpétuer l'occupation". La rencontre entre Yasser Arafat et le président français, François Mitterrand, mardi prochain à Paris, devrait sans doute permettre de mieux cerner les divisions qui persistent au sein de la centrale palestinienne.

Le tête-à-tête entre les deux hommes, dont le principe avait été arrêté le 28 mars par l'Elysée, a provoqué de nombreuses réactions d'hostilité de la part des organisations juives de France, dont certaines ont appelé à des manifestations pendant le séjour de M. Arafat à Paris, mardi et mercredi. En revanche, Marie-Claire Mendès-France, veuve de l'ancien président du Conseil, a déclaré lundi qu'il fallait "entendre et parler à Arafat". La présidente du comité pour la paix au Proche-Orient s'est également dite "absolument convenue" par l'attitude de la communauté juive française. (D'après agences).

Hajj: Ryad maintient les quotas

L'Arabie Saoudite a décidé de maintenir le système des quotas, limitant le nombre des pèlerins par pays, à l'occasion du prochain "Hajj" à la Mecque, prévu pour la mi-juillet. L'émir Ahmed Ben Abdel Aziz, vice-ministre saoudien de l'Intérieur, a néanmoins souhaité la participation des Iraniens au pèlerinage. Téhéran, qui n'a pour l'instant donné aucune réponse, avait boycotté le Hajj de 1988 pour protester contre ces restrictions (mille pèlerins par million d'habitants). Cette mesure avait été adoptée lors d'une réunion de l'OIC l'an dernier à Amman, après les émeutes sanglantes de juillet 1987 qui avaient fait 402 morts. Selon l'Arabie Saoudite, 275 victimes de affrontements avec les forces de l'ordre étaient de nationalité iranienne. (D'après agences).

FIGURE

Témoignage

Beyrouth 1982

"Pleurs, tirs de balles, alléluies se mélangeaient tels une ultime symphonie: partez, partez... nos yeux ne peuvent pas vous protéger..." Fathia Saoudi se souvient de septembre 1982, à jamais synonyme pour elle de "déchirement". Les Palestiniens quittent alors Beyrouth sous la pression des Israéliens, entrés au Liban le 4 juin précédent.

Dans son livre "L'Oubli rebelle, Beyrouth 1982" (*), Fathia Saoudi raconte au jour le jour les quatre premiers mois de l'opération "Paix en Galilée". Quatre mois qui furent aussi les derniers de son séjour dans le pays où elle avait décidé de vivre et de travailler en 1976. Diplômée de l'école de médecine de Paris, spécialisée en pédiatrie, elle avait choisi d'exercer sa profession dans les camps palestiniens de Beyrouth-ouest et de Saïda.

La guerre vient tout bouleverser. Les premières bombes éclatent. Elles "tombent si près de nous que nous sommes projetés dans l'espace", écrit Fathia Saoudi. La peur s'installe, et la "folle inquiétude" du sort des amis, eux aussi surpris par les pilonnages. Les journées de douze heures de travail ininterrompu se succèdent.

"De ces mois d'horreur meurtrière, demeure le souvenir d'un profond désespoir. "Je me suis sentie moi-même réfugiée", explique-t-elle, quand l'ordre lui est donné de quitter à son tour le pays, le jour où commencent les massacres des camps de Sabra et Chatila. "Aujourd'hui, je le sais, je ne veux plus vivre la guerre. Je ne veux plus voir l'homme dénudé devant la force métallique qui rase tout", écrit-elle en conclusion de son témoignage.



Fathia Saoudi.

A son retour en France, où elle séjourne jusqu'en 1985, Fathia Saoudi ne pensait pas qu'un jour elle rendrait compte de ces mois d'enfer. "J'ai d'abord écrit pour me soulager, pour me défaire de ce cauchemar." Puis est née l'idée de publier "ce que les journaux ne peuvent raconter". L'auteur, jordanienne, a entrepris la traduction de son livre en arabe, dès sa parution à Paris en 1986.

Fathia Saoudi est aujourd'hui consultante auprès de l'UNICEF, à Amman. Elle prépare notamment un manuel d'information médicale sur la santé des enfants, destiné aux parents. Docteur en médecine, elle avait consacré sa thèse à la situation sociale et sanitaire des Palestiniens au Liban. (A.R.)

(*) Editions l'Harmattan, 1986, 169 pages. Disponible en français à la librairie Firas (Djebel Amman, quatrième cercle).

SORTIR

Concert

Amours médiévales



"D'amour est toute ma pensée, je ne me soucie que d'amour; ils diront, les méchants bavards, qu'un chevalier doit tout de même s'occuper d'autre chose, mais moi je dis qu'il n'en est rien. Car c'est de l'amour, quoi qu'on en dise, que procède ce qui a le plus de valeur, dans la folie comme dans la sagesse, et tout ce que l'on dit par amour est bien". Ainsi chante le troubadour, tandis que d'autres haranguent les foules pour guerroyer contre l'"infidèle", en terre sainte comme en Alligeois. C'est ce message d'amour, dont la rime souvent révolutionnaire érige l'égalité entre l'homme et la femme, que restitue le Grop Rosamonda. "Cantos" provençaux des XIIIe et XIVe siècles, qui ont immortalisé l'époque de "l'Amour Courtois" et que Gérard Zuchetto, Patrice Briant et Jacques Koudir interpréteront ce soir. L'originalité de leur démarche réside dans la recherche de l'authenticité musicale. Chanteurs et instrumentistes passionnés par l'histoire médiévale, ils ont eux-mêmes fabriqué vièle à archet, rebec, citole, tympanon et percussions qui caractérisent le temps des poètes d'Oc.

Chansons et poésies des troubadours, par le Grop Rosamonda, jeudi 27 avril. Centre culturel royal, à 20h30.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA

In the heat of the night

De Norman Jewison, avec Sidney Poitier, Rod Taylor et Warren Oates (1967).

Un riche industriel d'une petite ville du Mississippi est assassiné. La population soupçonne d'abord un noir, puis découvre qu'il est policier, lui demande d'élucider le crime.

Centre américain, jeudi 27 avril à 16h00 (en anglais).

La vie de Luther

Film allemand de Franz Peter Wirth, avec Hans Dieter Zeidler et Hannes Messemer (1964).

L'histoire biographique de Martin Luther (1483-1546), l'un des principaux acteurs de la Réforme et père de la langue allemande moderne.

Institut Goethe, samedi 29 avril à 20h30 (en allemand, sous-titré en anglais).

Ciné-club

En raison du Ramadan, le ciné-club ne propose que deux séances quotidiennes, respectivement à 20h00 et 21h30. Tous les films projetés cette semaine ont été primés aux Oscars.

Jedi 27: Coccinelle et The second. Vendredi 28: Mainstoo et Travel by chance. Samedi 29: Ragging ball et Out of Africa. Dimanche 30: Quest of fire et Sophie's choice.

Lundi 1er mai: Wolf American man in London et Raan. Mardi 2: Alien et Gandhi. Mercredi 3: Kramer against Kramer et The Bird.

Ciné-club d'Amman: route de l'université, à droite après l'hôtel Jerusalem, puis prendre à gauche, 300 m. Films en version originale. Tél: 613901.

CONCERT

Musique médiévale

Le Grop Rosamonda interprète chansons et musiques des poètes provençaux des XIIIe et XIVe siècles. Époque de l'Amour Courtois, que les rimes des troubadours ont immortalisé. (Voir article ci-dessus).

EXPOSITION

Peinture à la main

Dernier jour de la présentation des toiles de l'artiste français Jean-François Noble.

Jardins du Hays Arts Centre, du 26h30 à 23h00, ce jeudi.

TELEVISION

"Une mère de trop", téléfilm réalisé par Tomino Valeri, avec Barbara de Rossi et Sonia Petrovna. Une fille, enlevée à ses parents, vit avec un couple qui l'a adoptée de bonne foi. L'arrivée de la mère maternelle remet tout en question... QTV, vendredi 28 avril à 17h30.

Restaurations de monuments dans la cité antique de Jerash

L'aboutissement d'une longue recherche

La porte sud du site archéologique de Jerash retrouve progressivement son aspect original. Sa restauration, commandée par le département des Antiquités de Jordanie, sera en grande partie achevée pour l'ouverture du festival en juillet prochain. Prisée par les touristes, une telle renaissance architecturale ne représente pourtant que l'aboutissement d'une longue et minutieuse recherche. Une recherche, menée par l'équipe de l'Institut français d'archéologie au Proche-Orient (IFAPO), installée sur place depuis plus de six ans.

Dans quelques mois, touristes et festivaliers entreront dans la cité antique de Jerash par la porte sud, telle qu'elle apparut à l'empereur romain Hadrien en 129-130. Ses deux voûtes, surmontées d'un arc central seront à nouveau en place, comme le souhaitait le département des Antiquités jordanien.

La reconstruction du monument a été confiée aux chercheurs de l'IFAPO, installés sur le site depuis 1982, aux côtés d'archéologues italiens, polonais et espagnols. "La porte sud fait partie de la section dont nous avons la charge", souligne Jacques Seigne, responsable de l'équipe, qui compte trois architectes, une archéologue et un restaurateur. "C'est la première fois que nous entreprenons une restitution d'édifice à Jerash", poursuit-il.

Les travaux ont commencé il y a un an, avec l'arrivée d'un jeune coopérant architecte, Christophe Wagner. C'est à lui qu'est revenue la tâche de retrouver la forme exacte de la porte, puis de superviser sa restauration. "Il a



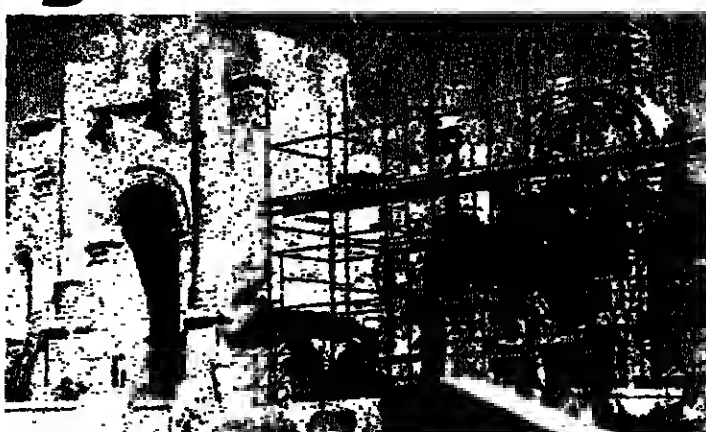
A gauche: la porte sud avant sa restauration; à droite: la même, bientôt telle que l'ont vue les Romains...

d'abord fallu trier les blocs de pierre, dispersés ici et là, expliquer-t-il. Une fois sélectionnés les éléments qui appartiennent au monument, je me suis plongé dans tous les documents susceptibles de m'aider à les remettre en place."

Un grand puzzle

Parmi ces archives figuraient les photographies et les carnets de fouilles des archéologues de l'école américaine de recherches en Orient, qui travaillaient sur le site de 1927 à 1932. "Pour connaître la position exacte des blocs, nous avons également étudié l'Arc de Triomphe, élevé lui aussi à l'occasion de la visite d'Hadrien à Jerash", ajoute Christophe Wagner. Les similitudes que présentent les deux constructions lui ont notamment permis de noter avec précision certains éléments de décoration ou d'agencement des pierres.

Le jeune architecte a également bénéficié des fouilles et des expertises effectuées par l'équipe de l'IFAPO, ainsi que par les missions temporaires, qui chaque



bientôt telle que l'ont vue les Romains...

année, viennent faire le point sur les dernières découvertes. "Les gens qui visitent Jerash ne se rendent pas compte de l'énorme travail qui précède toute restauration, et qui va de la fouille à la restitution graphique, en passant par l'étude des sols et les synthèses chronologiques et monographiques", souligne Jacques Seigne.

Une fois terminé le relevé précis des restes de la porte, ses dessins et calculs sous les yeux, Christophe Wagner a fait tailler les pierres manquantes par les ouvriers qui l'assistent dans son travail. Ce n'est qu'après cette minutieuse préparation qu'a pu commencer la reconstitution du puzzle. "Ca fonctionne vraiment de la même manière, précise-t-il. On prend d'abord les blocs dont l'emplacement ne pose aucune difficulté. Ensuite, on fait des essais."

La porte est remontée selon les techniques utilisées à l'époque romaine. Les pierres sont posées les unes sur les autres, l'ensemble étant ensuite consolidé par un mortier. Seules modifications: le maçonnerie, qui ne consiste plus

l'extraordinaire richesse de la zone explorée par les chercheurs de l'IFAPO. Une aire qui comprend notamment le "tell", petite colline artificielle proche de la porte sud. "Nous avons la chance de travailler dans le secteur-clé de Jerash, reconnaît Jacques Seigne. Nous avons en effet trouvé, il y a quelques années, des céramiques de l'âge du Bronze et du Fer, qui prouvent que le "tell" constitue le site du village d'origine autour duquel s'est ensuite développée la cité hellénistique, romaine puis byzantine."

La terrasse du sanctuaire de Zeus témoigne elle aussi de l'intérêt historique de la partie sud de la ville antique. "C'est le seul endroit où nous pouvons retrouver les strates de toutes les époques, depuis l'âge de Fer jusqu'à l'XIIIe siècle", souligne Jacques Seigne. Reste que sur les quarante mille mètres carrés de la zone confiée par les Antiquités jordanien à l'IFAPO, seul le quart a jusqu'à maintenant été systématiquement fouillé.

Alain Renon.

Americans get a first hand look at what it's like to be an Arab living under Israeli rule

Brothers in name

WALLACE Emerson of Palestine, Arkansas spent some time recently in another Palestine far from home.

Emerson was one of 12 members of a special delegation of ADC's Eyewitness Israel programme. What was special about this delegation was that all its members are mayors or chief executives of U.S. towns called Palestine, Bethlehem, or Hebron.

As part of its continuing effort to enable a broad range of U.S. citizens to learn about Palestinian life in the occupied territories, ADC organised this special Eyewitness Israel delegation expressly for the purpose of reaching out to people in small towns across the country. And what better townspeople to learn about occupied Palestine than those whose towns are named after places in historical Palestine, and what better time than Christmas, the season of good will. Before accepting ADC's invitation, several of the delegates checked with the offices of their senators and representatives. They were told that ADC is respected in Washington and were encouraged to participate in the programme.

The six municipal executives and their wives met in Washington Thursday, Dec. 8, for briefings by Bir Zeit University professor Beshara Doumani about the historical, social, and political aspects of Palestine. Former Eyewitness Israel delegates Laura Cooley and Rick McDowell spoke about the current situation in the occupied territories and what to expect on the trip.

Emerson, whose Palestine has a population of 1,200, was making his first trip overseas. He noted that "if the mayors of our communities can contribute in any way, it's a real important mission for us."

Danny Allison, the mayor of Palestine, Texas (population 15,948), also saw in the trip a direct role for himself. "It's a chance to tell people how I perceive the situation there first-hand, instead of how the news media presents it."

The other members of the de-

legation were: Maxine Emerson; Jeanie Allison; Kenneth Rehling, mayor of Hebron, North Dakota (population 1,078) and his wife Judy; Carmen Chick, mayor of East Palestine, Ohio (population 5,306) and his wife Esther; George Eggert, first selectperson of Bethlehem, Connecticut (population 800) and his wife Mary Ann; and Richard Bell, town board president of Hebron, Indiana (population 2,696) and his wife Jill.

At a farewell luncheon Dec. 9, Arab League Ambassador Clovis Maksoud emphasised the need for the delegates to keep an open mind and give Palestinians a chance.

"It is crucial that middle America, which is a constituency of conscience, develops the immunity against the distortion of the Palestinian images that have been so recurrent in the United States and that have for too long disabled the American people to perceive the realities in the Palestinian question. We are not asking you to be advocates. We are asking you to be fair."

Maksoud also struck a note of wishfulness: "Therefore, we welcome you to Palestine, to Hebron, to Bethlehem and hopefully also to other towns and cities in the new state of Palestine. You might be the first American delegation to the state of Palestine, and I think this is itself historic. Perhaps the state is occupied... Perhaps you will be told that you are going to see human sufferings and uprisings... But let me tell you... you are on the threshold of being the first Americans to the Palestinian state. You might be able to tell your children and grandchildren that we were witnesses to the birth of a new nation."

A concept changed

Emerson responded, "He kind of makes me feel like we will be a part of the rebirth of Palestine. And, historically speaking, that makes me feel very close to the Palestinian people."

"Before I got involved in (Eyewitness Israel), my conception of the Palestinians was about the same as everybody else in our area. I viewed them as a bunch of

terrorists," Emerson said. "But I see now that a lot of information has been misrepresented or suppressed. I'm looking forward to seeing the area for myself."

Allison found himself in a similar predicament: "I have read about this situation, but I don't know a whole lot about it."

Upon arriving in Jerusalem Dec. 10, the delegation had little time to recover from their jet lag and fatigue before facing the realities of Israeli occupation.

The first two mornings, the group had their breakfast interrupted by Israeli soldiers tearing down a group of Palestinian girls walking to school.

The delegates visited many Palestinians in their village homes and in Gaza refugee camps and met with human rights activists, the head of In'ash al-Ura, the largest orphanage in the West Bank, and other Palestinian officials.

They also met Dr. Jad Isaac, an agriculture professor at Bethlehem University, which has been closed by Israeli authorities since 1987. Isaac, who gained acclaim for initiating community garden projects, told the group about his arrest and imprisonment in Anzar III for "growing tomatoes" and teaching people to be self-sufficient by growing their own fruits and vegetables.

The delegates spoke with the vice-chancellor of Bethlehem University, who told of Israeli injustices perpetrated upon the Palestinian educational system. Palestinian colleges and universities have been closed almost continuously since the beginning of the uprising and secondary and elementary schools have been closed for months at a time. During the meeting, a rock-throwing and rubber-bullet shooting confrontation took place outside the hotel.

The delegates also met with their counterparts — Mayors Elias Freij of Bethlehem, Khalil Mousa of Ramallah, and Bassam Shaka'a of Nablus, in addition to the deposed mayor of Hebron, Mustapha Natchi.

Soon after his arrival, Allison said, "I can stand here two or three hours telling you all the stories, and I've only been here

two days." Allison said he witnessed four separate incidents of violence in his first six days in the territories. Nevertheless, Allison said that during his trip he did not feel threatened. "If I felt I or my wife were in danger, I'd cut it short and head for home."

The group visited Yad Vashem, the memorial to Jewish people killed by the Nazi regime. In addition, ADC organised a reception with the Vatican-appointed Patriarch of Jerusalem, Archbishop Michel Sabbagh. Finally, the group visited many of the religious sites in historical Palestine and had a tour of Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

On their return from Tel Aviv, the delegates had an unexpected travel companion in the person of ADC President Abdeen Jahara, who had been denied entry into Israel the previous day. In Washington, Jahara and the mayors held a joint press conference Dec. 19 at which Danny Allison read the following statement, signed by five of the mayors:

"The ADC has afforded us an opportunity, not as mayors or even Americans, but as one human being to another, to see for ourselves the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Palestinians feel like America has lost most of its credibility. America has always been the epitome of democracy; the champion of human rights. Yet we support with millions of American dollars a government that does not care about the rights of the people whose land they occupy.

"The Israelis have denied education to Palestinian children of all ages. I witnessed 12 and 13-year-old girls being tear gassed as they attempted to attend school. I talked with a college professor who was in prison for six months in Anzar III for trying to help the Palestinian people become self-sufficient in growing their own crops.

"I saw small children in hospit-



Palestine, Arkansas Mayor George Emerson with Palestinian family



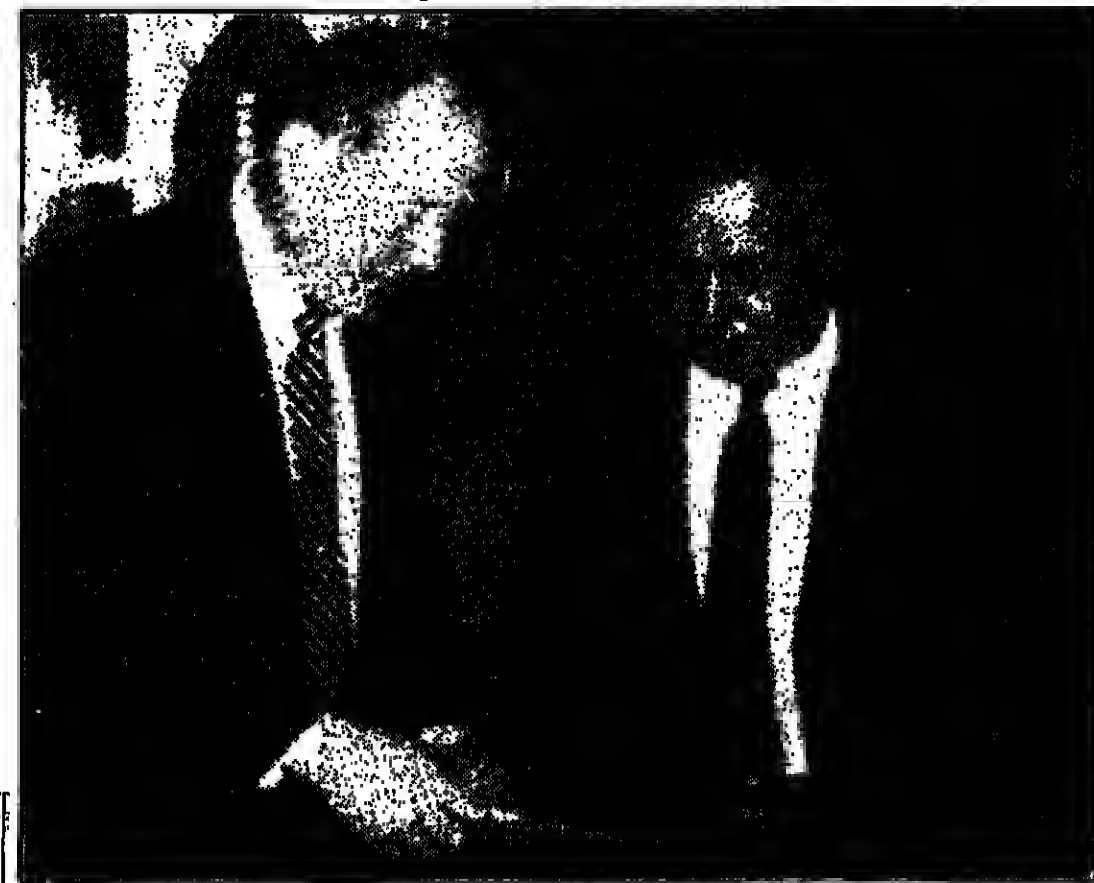
Hebron, Indiana Town Board President Richard Bell with deposed Hebron Mayor Mustapha Natchi

als wounded by Israelis' live and plastic bullets; and families living in tents because their homes were torn down, because their son or daughter threw a stone.

"How can America continue to turn her face to these human rights violations? It is my hope that the American people will realise there is a nation of men, women, and children suffering in the Middle East at the hands of Israel and with the help of the U.S. government."

Since his return, George Eggert of Bethlehem, Connecticut has written letters to his representatives in Congress condemning Israeli violence against Palestinians and was quoted in a Connecticut newspaper saying the Palestinian people "have as much a right to the land as the Israelis do."

The other delegates have also been active speaking to local groups and churches and appearing on radio talkshows. Danny Allison, of Palestine, Texas will be a panelist at ADC's national convention April 15 — Eyewitness Israel Report.



Bethlehem, Connecticut's George Eggert visits Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij in his office

Stay calm — and live longer

THERE is encouraging news for the dedicated workaholic. The latest psychiatric thinking is that he is likely to outlive those jealous colleagues, the office cynics.

Indeed, they had better watch out for themselves, says a leading American psychiatrist. For the chances are that as angry young men they will not survive to become angry old men.

Anger and cynicism amount to a recipe for a premature demise, according to Professor Redford B. Williams of the Durham University Medical Centre in North Carolina. He believes that inherently hostile people are five times as likely to die before the age of 50 as those of calmer and more trusting dispositions.

Dr. Williams's ideas tend to contradict earlier theories that the hard-driving, career-conscious and competitive personality is prone to heart disease in middle-age. Quick-tempered doubters are those hurrying towards half-century coronaries, it

seems.

Those who work themselves into a lather over trivialities are thought to have a fundamentally different nervous system from those who opt for the tranquil life and think nice thoughts.

When the latter get aroused and upset, says the professor, their nervous system reacts by

"switching off" anger-power long before a state of apoplexy gets hold. But the others have no such temper switches.

When they get mad, they stay mad. Hostile people show greater rises in blood pressure and this, in the long-term, might damage hearts and blood vessels, producing candidates for coronaries in

the 50s age range.

Angry people react much more readily in everyday situations and get involved in more rows than the non-hostile group. In the supermarket express check-out, for instance, the differences between the personality groups is made plain by reaction to the customer who tries to sneak through with

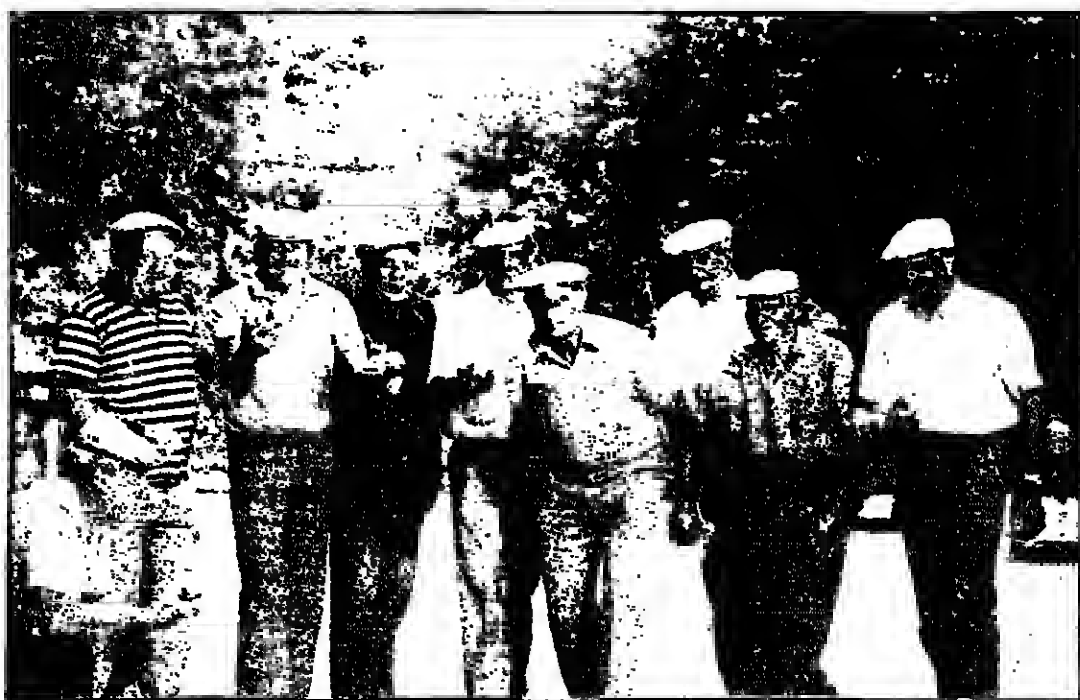
more than the permitted number of items.

The new thinking is based on many studies — including a 25-year check on 118 lawyers. High scorers in hostile personality traits — despite their probable effectiveness in cross-examination — were much more likely to die before 50 than colleagues of greater tolerance.

Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that Dr. Williams's own equanimity was not unduly disturbed by the findings of another recent study which suggest a good fight may be an ideal ingredient of a good marriage.

The U.S. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology reported that marital relationships could be undermined by conflicts that were swept under the carpet, while partners pretended their disagreements did not exist.

A table-thumping, eyeball-to-eyeball row, on the other hand, gave a couple a strong sense that they could weather conflict together.



A juvenile story in four pranks

Max and Moritz

is a classic by the German poet and artist Wilhelm Busch (1832-1908) which has been translated into many languages and is read with enthusiasm to this day. However, what sets young hearts beating, and causes nostalgia among grandparents, sounds a good deal more sober in the language of the juvenile court: theft, malicious damage and bodily injury. These are in fact the most common offences that occupy the juvenile courts. The step from the childish prank to juvenile crime is a very small one, as can be seen from Busch's merry verses and the somewhat less merry assessment by the Austrian criminal law of the actions they describe. Even if the deeds of our youthful "heroes" would hardly be likely to attract the maximum penalties, especially in the case of first offenders, branding as delinquents would be the inevitable consequence, with everything that implies. But even these slightly eccentric examples point to the use of a settlement between offender and victim as a more positive instrument of juvenile penology.

First prank

Three hens and cock are the widow Bolte's pride and joy. Max and Moritz decide to stir up this idyllic situation a little. They tie strings to pieces of bread and then tie the strings together. The birds are soon in difficulties:

"Right and left and rear and fore. They conduct a tug-of-war, Flutter up into the air, What a desperate affair! Gracious me, all tangled now And suspended from a bough! One last egg is laid apiece, Then comes death and brings release..."

Offence: Cruelty to animals
Penalty: Maximum 6 months detention

Second prank

The inconsolable widow Bolte

makes the best of the situation, and commits her hens to the frying pan...

"Max and Moritz caught the scent. 'Up the roof!', their thinking went.

Max would hardly overlook Bringing fishing rod and hook. Allez-op-da! Nice and soft, Chicken one is borne aloft..."

Offence: Theft, burglary?
Penalty: Maximum 30 months detention

Third prank

The hard-working tailor Böck is well-liked in the village, and for that reason a welcome target for Marx and Moritz...

"Max and Moritz, full of spite, Saw with mischievous delight Recker-rawker, heartless prank. At the plank from bank to bank..."

Offence: Malicious damage up to a value of 25,000 AS.
Penalty: Maximum one

year detention

"When the pitfall is prepared, Loud and jeering shouts are heard: Bahl! Come out here! Tattercoat! Tailor, Tailor Billy-Goat!"

Offence: Defamation
Penalty: Maximum 18 months detention

"In one swoop he cleared the stoop, Ell in hand: Again a whoop He is crossing at a dash: No! A crash and then a splash!"

Offence: Possibly bodily injury, malicious damage

Fourth prank

Max and Moritz are not the best pupils in Lämpel's school, and their unfortunate teacher is naturally one of their prime targets. And while Lämpel is playing the organ in the church on Sunday...

"Max and Moritz tippytoed Up into his snug abode Where the pipe was wont to stand; Max has seized it in his hand, While it falls to Moritz's task From the blasting-powder flask To dispense a goodly gosh And to lodge it in the knob! Calmly, with a gentle jolt, Lämpel shot the sacred bolt. And with decorous dispatch Stuffed his pipe and lit the match. Kroom! explodes the meerschaum head

With a crash to wake the dead. Hands, facade and apertures Are quite like a blackamoor's. And the hair's precarious hull Burnt away unto the skull.

Offence: Serious bodily injury
Penalty: According to severity, maximum three years detention

*From "Wilhelm Busch: Max and Moritz polyglott" with verses in German, English, French, Spanish, Italian and Latin. Paperback, published by dtv-München. ISBN: 3-423-10026-5.

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

THE BOSS WIFE

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675573

OPERA

BOB GOLD THWAIT
IN
BURGLAR

Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

PICK UP ARTIST

Performances 3:30, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Focus on People

Jordan as an offshore base

By Mariam M. Shahin

This week Sharif Ali Zu'bi a young lawyer, talks to Focus on People about the possibilities offered by the commercial laws in force in Jordan to increase the Kingdom's foreign revenues and its potential to assume the role of an excellent offshore base for foreign companies.

Born and raised in Amman, Zu'bi passed the General Certificate Examination at the Bishops Boys School before attending Charter House School at Surrey in England. He graduated in law and received a masters degree in 1985 from the University of Bristol. His specialisation was in banking and construction laws.

Zu'bi secured a practising licence from the Jordan Bar Association in November 1986 and joined his father's firm, Ali Zu'bi law firm.

It was no accident that Zu'bi became a lawyer. Being the son and grandson of lawyers, he had a very early exposure to the professional arena which he was to come to call his. Visiting his father's office as a child as well as attending court sessions on occasion, he was groomed to be what he is today, a legal "wunderkind" at 25. His decision to follow in the footsteps of his forefathers who began practising law in the early years of the century in Palestine and expanded to open offices in Amman and Bahrain was "not just for the sake of continuity of the family business," says Zu'bi. "I enjoy the challenge that the profession poses," he says. "I consider it as the most noble of professions if practised in a noble and ethical manner."

Asked about the standards of the profession in Jordan, Zu'bi reiterated that "the profession has a good standard and like any other profession it can be improved upon by way of specialisation in certain areas of the law." The general trend in Jordan has been away from specialisation but Zu'bi thinks that due to the commercial expansion the country has witnessed there is more than justification, indeed, a necessity, for lawyers to specialise in certain fields in order to render better services to their clients.

The specialisation of the Zu'bi law firm is commercial law, banking, corporate law, construction and investment. Zu'bi points out that despite the somewhat outdated legal system that Jordan finds itself in, the Kingdom has fairly modern commercial laws. "The problem is that they have not been utilised to the fullest potential by any standards," he says. "Jordan's commercial laws have provided foreign companies and investors with privileges and exemptions that are, to say the least, very tempting. Jordan could be a very prosperous base for foreign investors both Arab and non-Arab to operate and invest; be it in tourism, industry, or agriculture. Secondly Jordan could be a very convenient offshore base for foreign companies, from which they could conduct operations and activities in the area."

Zu'bi laments the lack of publicity of investment opportunities in the Kingdom as well as the various exemptions and privileges offered to foreign investors in various fields.

Zu'bi points out that Cyprus, Bahrain and Turkey all serve as booming offshore bases to companies and investors around the world "although they offer less exemptions and privileges when compared with Jordan." Bahrain and Dubai have attracted most foreign companies because of their modern laws and the incentives they offer to foreign investors, whether in the local scene or in the offshore field. Due to wide and frequent publicity campaigns conducted by their concerned authorities, there is an immense flow of foreign currency to these countries.

Jordan, on the other hand, by not publicising and advertising more extensively the benefits, exemptions and privileges that it provides to foreign investors has not had the same chances of success. Zu'bi is of the opinion that Jordan could be a major banking, insurance and services centre in the region since it has all the basic requirements, including its geographic location and climatic conditions. "We have an abundance of skilled labour (relatively inexpensive) as well as sufficient personnel with professional training," he says.

"One of the things needed is a specialised government committee to review laws concerning investment and operations by foreign companies in Jordan" emphasises Zu'bi. "An improvement on the existing laws and facilitation of commercial transactions would also be beneficial. Once you remove bureaucratic red tape things tend to move faster and other investors will be given the courage to give Jordan a chance. Local industries are likely to benefit as well. I'm referring of course to export-oriented industries."

At this point Zu'bi believes that accommodating foreign companies and investors is essential if "Jordan wants to generate an inflow of foreign currency. At the moment there is a sizeable number of foreign-Arab and non-Arab investors in Jordan. In general it can be said that they are quite satisfied with their opportunities in Jordan or in their use of Jordan as the centre and base of their activities in the area. Government departments should do more to encourage such investments in Jordan, particularly in export-oriented industries and projects that foster the role of Jordan in tourism," Zu'bi says.

Above and beyond the purely commercial nature of foreign investment, transfer of knowledge and technology, employment, and the development of industries will inevitably be generated by such projects, he says. While conceding that the projects generate their own revenues, Zu'bi is quick to point out that to get "the show on the road" it is essential to have a group effort by both public and private sectors. The commercial advantages and privileges that Jordan provides have to be more publicised. Foreign investors should be made aware of the investment possibilities and the possible use of Jordan as an offshore base.

As far as Jordan's laws are concerned "there are loopholes, but nothing that cannot be plugged." At the same time, "both the private and public sectors, which have a stake in the prosperity and development of this country, should make an effort to make the country's benefits known to all and anyone who is interested."

(Sharif Zu'bi is currently writing a booklet which emphasises the privileges and benefits that Jordan offers to foreign investors and the country's consequent viability to be an offshore base.)



A deceptive family idyll: Emperor Franz Josef with his wife Empress Elisabeth ("Sisi"), their second daughter Stephanie, and their son Rudolf dressed as a soldier.



Marrying was a political necessity for the House of Habsburg. The wedding of Rudolf and the 16-year-old Belgian Princess Stephanie was a popular festival, the marriage a fiasco.

The Mayerling tragedy

The following is the first of a two part article dealing with the life and times of Crown Prince Rudolf — the heir to the throne of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire.

Tour no. 4 of the Vienna Sightseeing Programme is a must for tourists: a bus journey through the southern Vienna Woods with a visit to the imperial hunting lodge of Mayerling. What hundreds of thousands of tourists hear within the walls of the modest mansion house — now a nunnery — is more or less the bitter-sweet story of the hopeless love of a royal prince for a 17-year-old baroness, which ended with the death of them both. Even a hundred years later, the story is as good as made to measure for film producers and novelists, who during this entire period have operated what is practically an industry turning out Mayerling legends. The real Mayerling tragedy was, however, that it represented the beginning of the end of an era in Europe.

One hundred years ago,

On January 30, 1889, two bodies

were discovered in the imperial hunting lodge of Mayerling. In the seclusion of the Vienna Woods some distance to the south of the capital city. One of them was the 17-year-old Baroness Mary Vetsera. The other was the only son of His Imperial and Apostolic Majesty Franz Josef I — the Crown Prince Rudolf; heir to the throne of Austria-Hungary, Prince of Hungary and Bohemia, etc.; Archduke of Austria, etc.; holder of 45 of the highest Austrian and foreign orders and decorations; Lieutenant Field Marshal; General Inspector of Infantry; Vice Admiral; Colonel of several regiments at home and abroad; Honorary Doctor of Philosophy of the University of Vienna; Honorary Member of the Academies of Sciences in St. Petersburg and Lisbon.

Seidom has a death aroused the interest and imagination of contemporaries and later generations like that of the heir to the Habsburg Monarchy — it was quite simply the scandal of the century.

The attempts by the imperial court to hush up the affair just aggravated the situation, because it opened the door to a torrent of inventions, stories, legends and scandalous insinuations. It was not even two weeks after the tragedy that a Dresden publisher issued the prospectus for a new novel entitled "Crown Prince Rudolf and the Drama of Mayerling", ostensibly written by one Baron Zichinsky, who had "naturally" been a personal friend of the deceased. Shortly afterwards, again in Dresden, one could buy the 10-Pfennig instalment of "Austria's Darling and the Women". This was followed in Zürich by the novel "The Hunter of Mayerling Hunting Lodge", while "Authentic Revelations..." came from Leipzig.

Right down to the present day, there have been more or less serious publications on the life and death of the unfortunate Prince, and constant attempts are made to solve the unsolvable — the last and most secret motives of a suicide. All the so-called "puzzles" or "secrets" of Mayerling have in fact been resolved in the biographies of Rudolf by Freiherr von Mitis (1928) and above all Brigitte Hamann (1978), and the suppositions and inventions reduced to verifiable facts. The following sketch of Rudolf's life, his political ideas, and his death, is based mainly on these two standards works.

Crown Prince Rudolf was born on August 21, 1858, in the Palace of Laxenburg, to the south of Vienna. He was the third child of the ruler of all the Austrian crown lands, Emperor Franz Josef I, and his wife Elisabeth, of the Bavarian Wittelsbach royal

family. Josef Strauss celebrated the birth by composing a "Crown Prince March" and a "Laxenburg Polka". A "Rudolf Hospital" was founded to serve the inhabitants of Vienna. The order of the Golden Fleece was laid in the infant's cradle, and an infantry regiment named for him. Something else that lay in his cradle, invisible but nonetheless real, was the curse that had lain on his Wittelsbach ancestry since the time of Ludwig IX of Hessen.

Wittelsbach connection

This Ludwig had been a peculiar, restless individual, pedantic and despotic, violent and uncontrolled, who suffered from paranoid fears and imaginary illnesses. These characteristics were transmitted to Rudolf's cousins, Ludwig II and Otto I, Kings of Bavaria. The first drowned himself in the Starnberg Lake in 1886, and the second died in 1916 after 44 years of twilight existence in psychiatric care. Three of Rudolf's great-grandparents had been Wittelsbachs and one of them a Habsburg — "A lot of Bach and a little Burg", as the contemporary saying put it. His father Franz Josef (1830-1916), of the Habsburg imperial dynasty, stemmed from the Wittelsbachs on his mother's side; the parents of Rudolf's mother, the young Empress Elisabeth (1837-1898), were both Wittelsbachs.

In view of this ancestry, Rudolf's education was of primary importance. Court writers described it thus: "He inherited his father's characteristic of true kind-heartedness, to which was added the devoted love bestowed on him by his illustrious mother... Thus, through the fine combination of his imperial parents, the noblest seeds were implanted in the heart of the Crown Prince." The truth was naturally something quite different. Franz Josef had never known the meaning of kind-heartedness — all his portraits show nothing but an expression in his eyes indicating a total lack of feeling for others. Archduke Leopold wrote of the Emperor, his family head: "We felt his cold hand. We archdukes felt it more often and colder than the others. He went through our lives, a driver with no feeling. What we felt did not get through to him; he did not understand it. He was hard, and remained constant and remorseless. Franz Josef was our destiny."

The illustrious mother took practically no interest in the upbringing of her child, for she was mostly on her travels somewhere or other, in order to escape from court and husband. Rudolf's parents were consistent in only one respect, namely that the father, too, devoted practically no time to his children.

Rudolf's education was entrusted to General Count Leo Gondrecourt, a raw and tyrannical martinet, who tried to force

the sensitive and timid child to grow into a hardened extrovert. When the Empress saw her son after the lapse of almost one year, she found him "dangerously nervous, and regarded it as 'terrifying' to try to frighten a six-year-old child with water treatment and make him into a hero"; such an education would inevitably make Rudolf "almost into an idiot."

Before she again disappeared on her international travels, Elisabeth issued an ultimatum that the Crown Prince's education was to be entrusted to Joseph von Latour. This tutor turned out to be a sensible teacher and fatherly friend, who taught Rudolf critical and liberal ways of thinking, instilled in him a love of science, and armed him against the then prevalent prejudices of rank, race, religion and nationality. The grateful Rudolf held him in lifelong affection and honour.

On July 24, 1877, just before his 19th birthday, ended Rudolf's formal schooling, which had supplemented the standards of the upper secondary schools with the principal languages of the Monarchy (particularly Hungarian and Czech), as well as military science.

He was declared to be of age, and was given a new mentor, Count Charles Bombelles, a man of the world and typical courtier. The latter had already provided essential support to Rudolf's uncle, the unfortunate Emperor Maximilian of Mexico, especially as regards the arrangement of amorous adventures. Bombelles himself was a connoisseur of women, and now regarded it as his duty to ensure that his exalted master was kept in a balanced frame of mind by means of physical exercises and diversions of all kinds. He took every opportunity to entice Rudolf away from books into the open air, and arrange one "amusement" after another for him.

A womanizer

At any rate, it can be said that Rudolf's relationships with women were both early and intensive. This was regarded as rather less damaging to his health than excessively intensive intellectual interests, which were in any case a thorn in the flesh of conservative circles at the imperial court, especially as regards their ever-suspected liberal and anti-clerical elements.

Women were not a scarce commodity, certainly not as far as Rudolf was concerned. An imperial archduke stood in a sense over and above the normal bourgeois moral code. Furthermore, as Princess Louise von Coburg put it: "Rudolf was more than handsome: he was seductive." He was so assailed by women that he had to enlist the help of Vienna's chief of police. Rudolf's wife in later years complained that "as a result of the many affairs he had had with women from his early years on, he had a low opinion of women as such, and did not regard them as being of equal status."

However, the man of the world Bombelles did prove his usefulness during the year of international travel that his protégé was allowed after his strenuous schooling. Rudolf was particularly impressed by Britain, by its liberal system and advanced technology. He had struck up a friendship in Vienna with the somewhat older British Crown Prince, but now he also won the sympathy of Queen Victoria. The then 58-year-old Queen showed her affection for Rudolf so openly that Mary Cambridge joked to the Austrian Ambassador: "The Queen is in love with the Crown Prince, but don't worry, she doesn't want to marry him."

Nevertheless, the Crown Prince had to marry, and handsome daughters of European Catholic princely houses were few and far between. The princesses in Madrid, Lisbon and Dresden were unattractive, so that left only Brussels: the 15-year-old Princess Stephanie of Belgium was still "neither fish nor flesh," as her mother put it, but she had time to develop. Rudolf could all the more readily agree to the match since he took his current mistress, an actress, to Brussels with him for the engagement ceremony. It was a bit embarrassing that his future mother-in-law found out about her, but it was no obstacle in the marriage.

Fairy tale

The fairy-tale wedding took place in May 1881. All Vienna was dancing to the specially-composed Stephanie Waltz, and the young bride reported that "it rained flowers from all sides, and we drove over rose petals." At the age of 16 she still looked so immature and awkward that Countess Larisch remarked: "The numerous ladies that Rudolf knew and loved were overjoyed. With a wife like that there was no fear that he would ever become a model husband."

Contrary to expectations, however, the marriage was initially a happy one, and a daughter was born in September 1883. After that, however, the couple gradually drifted apart, and when it became clear that there was no prospect of a male successor to the throne — the main purpose of the marriage — Rudolf tried to obtain a divorce. It never came to that, however. Rudolf's farewell letter put it clearly: "Dear Stephanie! You are free of my presence and burden..."

One means of escaping his wife's presence was hunting, a passionate pursuit with Rudolf. For this purpose, he purchased the small Mayerling estate in the Vienna Woods to the south-west of the city. He was actually far too nervous to be a good hunter. At the age of 20 he shot a bullet through his own hand, while on another occasion (in 1885 or 1886) he very nearly shot his own father, because he had failed to observe the strict hunting rules. His bullet struck one of the besters sitting behind the Emperor; the man was given 50 gulden as compensation for the injury!

Rudolf would have liked to go on to higher education after his school period, but his father insisted that he become a soldier. And so he joined the regiment that had been given to him at birth, and one year later became his commanding officer. In 1884 he was transferred to Vienna, and in 1886 took over the post of General Infantry Inspector that had been created for him. By now, he also had to carry out representation duties, which he did with pleasure on the occasion of scientific events.

He not only took the lead in the establishment of the Museum of Military History in Vienna, but also assisted personally whenever possible. In 1886 he lent his name to a 24-volume book series entitled "The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy in Word and Picture." Not only that, for he personally wrote the comprehensive introduction to the series, and several of the articles. Even more significantly, he was the author of several articles in "Brehm's Tierleben", the famous multi-volume publication on animal life that remains a standard work to the present day. Rudolf was a close friend of Brehm's, and felt considerably honoured when Brehm dedicated the second edition of the work to him.

An American author takes a road not travelled by

Questioning the righteousness of the status-quo

By Paul Gray

ALICE Walker ascended from the realm of mere literature after Steven Spielberg's film adaptation of her novel *The Colour Purple*. The movie's huge commercial success — and the controversy that arose over its portrait of black males — ensured Walker's public renown as a woman with a cause, an author who, when she has a message, would rather write a book than call Western Union. Indeed, her poetry and fiction have always been, to some extent, polemical. Now that her potential audience has increased many times over, Walker, 45, has become more forthright about the burden of her prose: the horrors that whites have historically imposed on blacks and that men have inflicted on women. Perhaps these lamentable subjects cannot be exaggerated. But in her latest novel, *Walker tries*.

The Temple of My Familiar is almost all talk — monologues and dialogues, chiefly by and among black women. The skeletal plot is an excuse to get conversations going. Suwelo, a black professor of American history, travels from his California home to attend an

and thus at peace and when lions killed only to put ailing fellow creatures out of their misery. But then the men decided to force their way into residence at the women's encampments, which Miss Lissie sees as the first of many tragedies: "In consorting with man, as he had become, woman was bound to lose her dignity, her integrity."

More evil followed. Ancient Africa has been to white people as well, but they were driven out because their pitifully pale skins could not protect them from the blazing heat and light ("The white man," Miss Lissie notes, "worships gold because it is the sun he has lost"). Thus was conceived whites' envy of blacks and a determination to crush them, a process that began, at least symbolically, in Greek mythology when Perseus beheaded medusa, who was really the Great Mother, the Black African Goddess.

None of this admits argument, of course; legends, old or new, are not susceptible to logic. But when Walker's characters venture into more recent history, their opinions, to put it discreetly, seem open to debate. Is it, for instance, true that the white colonial powers driven out of Africa have tried to undermine the liberated countries by flooding them with pornography? Fanny's father, the Minister of Culture of a newly emerged nation, claims that "the reason millions of Africans are exterminating themselves in wars is that the superpowers have enormous stores of outdated weapons to get rid of." Is this really the whole, or even a valid, explanation of the current slaughters across the continent? Fanny's mother discusses the viciousness that people, especially white ones, display as the consequence of cruelties done to them when they were young. "I shudder to think," she says, "what Hitler's childhood was like. But anyone can see that the Palestinians and their children are reliving it under the Israelis today."

Book Review

uncle's funeral in Baltimore and to dispose of the house that comes as his inheritance. Suwelo is grateful for the respite provided by this visit; his wife Fanny (the granddaughter of Miss Celie, the heroine of *The Colour Purple*) has discovered feminism and wants a divorce. It is not that she has stopped loving him, as she tells him, but rather that "I don't want to be married." Gloomily, Suwelo decides that "his generation of men had failed women."

His spirits lift when he meets Mr. Hal and Miss Lissie, two old and aged friends of his uncle's. These two drop by regularly to talk and reminisce; they prove themselves remarkable founts of memory, particularly Miss Lissie, who confides that she has lived in countless incarnations dating back to the dawn of time. Relating her experiences as a slave girl being transported to America, she interrupts herself to warn Suwelo, "You do not believe I was there? I pity you."

Integrity and dignity

Suwelo believes, Short of busting Miss Lissie out the door, that is probably his only option. For her voluminous story, in which a growing chorus of other voices gradually contributes, is an extended myth that must be taken on faith or not at all. Parts of it are enchantingly beautiful. She remembers primeval Africa as the Edenic cradle of life, when women and men lived separately

Walker's relentless adherence to her own sociopolitical agenda makes for frequently striking propaganda. The cumbersome ideological weight of *The Temple of My Familiar* will lead some, probably many, to praise it as a novel of ideas. But it is something else entirely: a novel of allegations. — Time Magazine.

The temple of my familiar by Alice Walker
Harcourt Brace Jovanovich; 416 pages; \$19.95



The author Alice Walker

Africans urged to cut reliance on foreign food

NAIROBI (R) — Africa should stop trying to eat like the West and go back to traditional foodstuffs if it is to eradicate famine, a new development plan for the continent says.

"Imitative modernism", in which urban dwellers copy Western lifestyles and eating habits, must carry some of the blame for Africa's inability to feed itself, it said.

The continent could produce abundant quantities of such staple foods such as maize, sorghum, millet, yam and cassava, said the plan which finance and planning ministers adopted at a meeting in April organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa.

But Africa's ecology did not suit widespread cultivation of crops such as wheat, barley, rice and oats — grains much sought after for everyday needs like bread and beer.

The plan, entitled "The African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes", warned that unless Africans ate more local food the goal of self-sufficiency "will forever remain unfeasible."

"In the circumstances, Africa will find itself in the always humiliating situation of food-dependence," it added.

The Lagos plan of action endorsed by African heads of state in 1980 enshrined the target of food self-sufficiency as the top priority for the world's poorest continent.

But reports submitted to the mid-April ministerial meeting in Addis Ababa showed the target was still well beyond reach.

One quoted U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) figures which indicated that in two decades Africa would need to spend \$28.5 billion a year on food imports.

Its own agricultural exports, currently dominated by cash crops such as cocoa, coffee and tea, would earn less than \$12 billion annually by then.

The U.N. commission estimated that food and drink imports cost a total \$10 billion in 1988 — some 16.5 per cent of total merchandise imports.

Other reports portrayed the hardships of farmers trying to cope with outdated tools and technology, lack of research and fertilisers, environmental decay, locusts, and — in a continent plagued by recurrent drought — inadequate irrigation aids and thus an overwhelming reliance on rain-fed cultivation.

FAO estimates showed that

cereal output in Africa jumped by one-fifth to 78.8 million tons last year, helped by good rains.

But many countries, particularly in North Africa, remained net food importers, according to the 1989 report of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

"For the 1988/89 season, Egypt alone has imported nearly 6.2 million tonnes of wheat and coarse grains, nearly a third of total African cereal imports. Moreover, because of drought, both Tunisia and Algeria sharply increased imports in 1988," it said.

Civil strife has hampered food production and aggravated hunger in countries like Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Sudan.

Africa's bulging population, expected to grow to one billion by the year 2000 from 600 million now, adds to the problem.

Between 1975 and 1986 per

capita food output fell by more than one-tenth.

"Today one out of every four Africans depends on food aid for his survival," said the U.N. commission's executive secretary, Adebayo Adedeji.

"With a population of one billion, where is the food aid to come from?" he said in an interview at the end of the Addis Ababa meeting.

"We will never achieve self-sufficiency in Africa as long as there is divergence between our food habits and what we produce," he added.

He mentioned Nigeria as one country which had attempted to tackle the problem. It once used to spend \$3 to \$5 billion a year on rice imports before banning them. It also halted barley imports and told breweries to use local inputs.

"That is the kind of change we are asking for," he said.

Arab Potash targets JD 20 million net profit

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) expects to produce 1.4 million tonnes of potash during 1989, to register 16.7 per cent increase over 1988 production, according to APC Director-General Ali Nsour.

In a statement published Wednesday in Sawt Al Shaah Arabic daily, Nsour said that APC hopes to earn \$130 million in revenues during the current year of which JD 20 million will be a net profit.

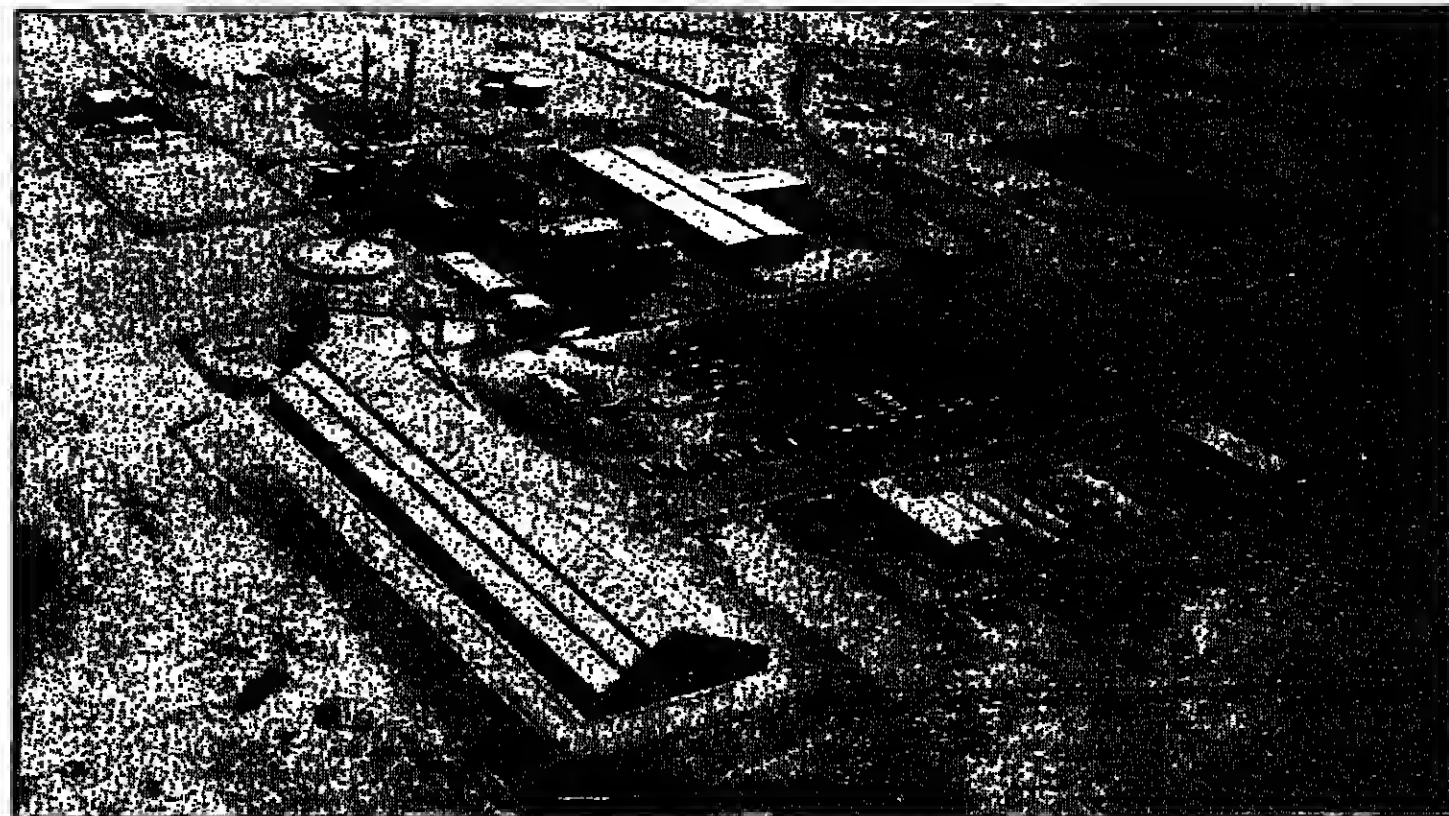
Nsour noted that last year the company made a net profit of JD 6.8 million as its total revenues amounted to \$113 million.

The company's current expansion programme is bound to enable the company to produce 1.8 million tonnes in 1992 and 2.2 million tonnes in 1994, Nsour noted.

The past year witnessed a growing demand for Jordanian potash in international markets which prompted the company to consider increasing production, especially to meet the needs of the Asian customers, Nsour pointed out.

He noted that Asian countries prefer to purchase their needs of potash from Jordan because the Kingdom has a central geographical location between continents and due to its high quality product.

According to Nsour, the following countries import Jordan's potash: India, China, South



An aerial view of the Arab Potash plant on the Dead Sea (File photo).

Korea, Taiwan, Malaysia, Japan, Indonesia, Philippine and Thailand. He said that these countries buy nearly 86 per cent of Jordan's total production.

Nearly 12 per cent of the King-

dom's potash production goes to European countries like Italy, France, Turkey, Greece and countries in northern Europe, Nsour explained.

He said that nearly two per

cent goes to Tunisia, Iraq and Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar, while the rest goes to the local market.

APC is currently involved in studies to expand production em-

ploying new techniques as this has become imperative in view of the rising potash prices on world markets which, he said, are expected to continue rising during this year.

Argentines race against soaring price increases

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentines went on a buying spree Monday and Tuesday, emptying supermarket shelves and exhausting stocks of cars, refrigerators and other consumer goods in a race against soaring price increases.

In a whirl of hyper-inflation, supermarkets are marking up prices once, or sometimes twice a day, while the austral currency continues its free-fall against the dollar, having lost 25 per cent of

its value in under two days and over 80 per cent since early February.

Unofficial estimates forecast a cost of living increase of between 35 and 40 per cent in April alone, but flour, sugar, eggs and other basic consumer items have already tripled in cost in little more than a month.

The economic crisis has hurt the government of President Raul Alfonsín, which faces general elections in less than three weeks.

A Buenos Aires radio station reported Tuesday that customers had overturned carts of goods at one supermarket after the management announced over a loud speaker that all prices were immediately raised by 30 per cent.

Purchases of flour are often limited to three kilograms per customer and some products have disappeared from shelves altogether. Car dealers said orders for the next two to three months were booked solid.

On Monday night the Association of Small Shopkeepers (CGA) issued a statement blaming the government for economic chaos.

Economy Minister Juan Carlos Pugliese, appointed last month in a last-ditch effort to improve the economy ahead of the May 14 elections, said he was not planning any policy changes to control inflation or bolster the austral.

He has branded exporters who fail to convert their earnings into

australs as "financial terrorists."

Exporters are pushing for a revamped exchange rate system. They currently receive just 36 australs to the dollar against a free market rate of over 90.

In a desperate bid to lure investors away from the dollar and into local currency time deposits, banks upped the interest rate for short term deposits to 140 per cent a month on Tuesday, nearly double the previous day's rate.

Bush renews plea for cut in capital gains tax

PALO ALTO, California (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday that his proposed cut in capital gains taxes is not "a tax break for the rich" but is needed to help the United States compete in the global economy.

Bush took note of criticism of

his proposal in Congress saying: "Well, they couldn't be more wrong. Lower capital gains taxes will create jobs for those who don't have jobs, and help build a better America."

Capital gains taxes are levied on the profits that businesses and individuals make on investments. The president wants to cut the 33 per cent maximum tax on capital gains to 15 per cent and to exempt entirely the gains accrued by people with incomes under

\$10,000 a year.

When fully effective in 1995, the tax break for capital gains would apply to assets held for 36 months or longer. The theory is that profits from those sales would be reinvested, spurring growth in the U.S. economy.

Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell and other top congressional Democrats have criticised Bush for pushing the capital-gains reduction, which they term "a tax break for the

rich," while opposing legislation to increase legislation to raise the minimum wage from \$4.55 an hour from the current \$3.35.

The president noted that demographic changes in the American labour force indicate that the majority of new job-seekers in the years ahead will be females, minorities and immigrants.

To keep abreast of the rapidly changing technologies and the change in the labour markets, he said, businesses must have incentives to make the kinds of investments that will create new jobs, and he suggested that many of these new jobs will come in the

high-technology area.

"Lower capital gains taxes will create jobs for those who don't have jobs, and help build a better America," he said.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy, surpassing the \$5 trillion mark for the first time, expanded at a robust annual rate of 5.5 per cent in the first three months of 1989, the fastest pace in more than a year, the government reported.

The Commerce Department said that almost half of the increase in the gross national product (GNP) came from a statistical catch-up from last year's drought.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Egyptair orders seven Airbus planes

PARIS (R) — Egyptair has ordered seven Airbus A300-600R jets, with an option on six more planes, Airbus Industrie said Wednesday. Industry sources said the deal was worth between \$450 million and \$490 million. Delivery will begin in spring 1990. Egyptair, Airbus Industrie's largest customer in Africa and the Middle East, already operates seven A300B4 airliners and leases two A300-600s. It announced an order for seven Airbus A320S in January.

Kuwait, U.S. sign investment accord

KUWAIT (AP) — The United States and Kuwait signed an investment guarantee agreement, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) has reported. "The accord commits the U.S. Overseas Private Investments Corp., OPIC, to encourage American investments in developing countries where governments sign such agreements with the United States," KUNA said. The agreement will allow the Kuwaiti investors the advantage of benefiting from services in developing countries that have signed similar agreements with the United States," KUNA said. "The agreement will also lead to the consolidation of bilateral economic cooperation and encourage the flow of investment funds and the transfer of American technology to Kuwait," it added. The United States has signed similar agreements with about 100 developing countries, including four Gulf states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. Negotiations are currently under way with the United Arab Emirates to finalise such an accord.

Foreign airlines threaten Italy

ROME (R) — Foreign airlines are threatening to boycott Italy unless strikes that have disrupted air travel for nearly two years stop, Transport Minister Giorgio Santuz said. He said foreign carriers had told him they would divert their normal Italy-bound flights to airports such as the French Mediterranean city of Marseille unless the situation improved. "The threat is a real one because of the uncertainty reigning in Italian skies caused by the strikes," he told a conference in the Adriatic city of Ancona. Air travel in Italy has been disrupted for nearly two years by repeated strikes by Italian pilots, flight attendants and air traffic controllers involved in contract disputes with the state airline Alitalia or airport authorities.

S. Korean current account falls sharply

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's current account surplus fell to less than half of last year's level in the first quarter of this year due mainly to sluggish exports, government officials have said. The current account measures trade in goods and services plus certain unilateral transfers. Officials at the Bank of Korea, the central bank, said South Korea's current account recorded a surplus of \$1.3 billion for the first three months of this year — \$517.9 million in January, \$360.2 million in February and \$422.5 million in March. The January-March surplus is only 44.5 per cent of the \$2.9 billion surplus in the same period last year. The bank officials attributed the shrinking surplus to an export slump coupled with spreading labour protests and the strong won, the South Korean currency. The overall economic figures are alarming, the officials said. They especially expressed concern that exports, the mainstay of South Korea's economy, grew only 8.1 per cent in the first quarter. Analysts said the falling economic trend would continue even if the economy picks up in the second quarter.

King Fahd backs higher oil output

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — King Fahd said in statements published Wednesday that he backs a carefully calculated increase in OPEC's oil production ceiling.

The Saudi monarch, however, did not mention any figure for the proposed hike in output by the 13-member group, according to the Saudi newspapers Okaz and Bilad.

He said that an increase could be sanctioned if "the (OPEC) meeting finds the market's need is real, and the proposed increase will not affect the world market. "Then the surplus quantity can be allocated in the quotas of the member states in accordance with the ratios and without harming any OPEC member state," the newspapers quoted Fahd as saying.

Fahd was speaking with a group of Saudi citizens who called on him in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah on the occasion of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month.

"Oil is a sensitive commodity and we should not subject it to up and down experiments," he added.

Saudi Arabia is the biggest OPEC producer.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer and his counterparts in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council were meeting Wednesday in Jeddah to work out a joint policy on oil production and prices.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia with Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman. The first four nations are ranking OPEC members.

Kuwait Petroleum Corp. profits \$494m in 1988

KUWAIT (AP) — The state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corporation (KPC), one of the world's oil giants, has doubled its profits in the fiscal year ending in June last year, despite a decline in oil prices, the KPC's annual report has said.

The KPC profits until June 30, 1988, were estimated at 141 million Kuwaiti dinars (\$494 million) against 90.5 million dinars (\$317 million) in the previous year, representing a 56 per cent increase, the report said.

Kuwait is a ranking member of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). It had an average daily production quota of 996,000 barrels per day till the end of 1988, increased to 1,037,000 barrels per day under OPEC's new production agreement in force since Jan. 1 this year.

The agreement helped raise oil prices closer to the \$18 per barrel benchmark price set by the group after two years of fluctuation prices.

Oil Minister Ali Khalifa Al Sabah suggested in a preface to the report that among the factors that contributed to the healthy performance of KPC were measures taken to ensure the flow of oil during the Iran-Iraq war, which was halted last Aug. 20 by a ceasefire.

"The corporation also faced the deteriorating situation in the

region resulting from the Gulf war and the escalation in the tanker war during the period that preceded the ceasefire by adopting certain arrangements which enabled it to ensure the flow of Kuwaiti oil to consumption areas," he said.

KPC reflagged 11 of its tankers under the U.S. flag and chartered three oil vessels from the Soviet Union to protect oil shipments against Iranian attacks.

"The corporation managed to surmount the obstacles it faced on the world oil market by adopting flexible and positive policies and by exerting added effort to overcome adverse consequences at minimum sacrifice," Sheikh Ali said.

The KPC report equally underscored satisfaction over a continued attempt to bolster its productivity and marketing installations outside the country. It said KPC "obtained firm standing in the European market that helped guarantee marketing outlets for Kuwaiti oil."

KPC has acquired about 3,000 filling stations mainly in Scandinavian countries, Belgium and Luxembourg and two refineries with total capacity of 126,000 barrels a day in the Netherlands and Denmark.

KPC is considered the world's eighth oil giant because of its world-wide investment.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

| Wednesday, April 26, 1989 Central Bank official rates | | | |
|--|-------|-------|------------------------------------|
| | Buy | Sell | |
| U.S. dollar | 538.0 | 542.0 | Swiss franc 325.5 329.6 |
| Pound Sterling | 911.6 | 921.5 | French franc 84.9 85.7 |
| Deutschmark | 287.4 | 290.5 | Japanese yen (for 100) 408.2 412.5 |
| | | | Dutch guilder 244.8 248.0 |
| | | | Swedish crown 84.6 85.4 |
| | | | Italian lira (for 100) 39.2 39.6 |
| | | | Belgian franc (for 10) 137.4 138.7 |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|--|
| One Sterling | 1.6970/80 | U.S. dollar | |
| One U.S. dollar | 2.1900/10 | Canadian dollar | |
| | 1.8698/95 | Deutschmarks | |
| | 2.1085/95 | Dutch guilders | |
| | 1.6510/20 | Swiss francs | |
| | 39.12/15 | Belgian francs | |
| | 6.3250/300 | French francs | |
| | 1370/1371 | Italian lire | |
| | 131.68/78 | Japanese yen | |
| | 6.3560/610 | Swedish crowns | |
| | 6.7850/900 | Norwegian crowns | |
| | 7.2730/80 | Danish crowns | |
| One ounce of gold | 384.40/384.70 | U.S. dollars | |

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Davis through with session to spare

SHEFFIELD (R) — Defending champion Steve Davis of England is through to the semi-finals of the world snooker championship — and he was barely broken sweat. The deadly Davis destroyed fellow-Englishman Mike Hallett for the second successive year, winning 13-3 Tuesday night to render Wednesday's scheduled third session unnecessary. But Hallett did manage the highest break of the event so far, a 133 in the 15th frame. In the semifinals, Davis will meet either Stephen Hendry of Scotland or Terry Griffiths of Wales, the fourth and fifth seeds who resume their quarter-final on Wednesday level at 4-4.

One-handed pitcher wins first game

ANAHEIM, California (R) — Jim Abbott, the one-handed baseball pitcher who starred on last year's U.S. Olympic team, won his first game as a professional when the California Angels defeated the Baltimore Orioles 3-2. He allowed just four hits, three walks and two earned runs in six innings Monday night as the Angels finally supported him by putting some runs on the scoreboard. California went scoreless in his first two games in the major leagues. Abbott, who was born with his right hand missing, helped the U.S. team win the gold medal in the Seoul Olympics where baseball was played as a demonstration sport.

Grieving Liverpool undecided on replay

LIVERPOOL (AP) — Liverpool football club, still mourning the deaths of 95 fans, was given until the weekend to decide whether to continue playing in this season's Football Association Cup. The

Football Association gave the club the extra time after its directors failed to agree on whether or not to continue playing in the cup at a four-hour meeting Tuesday evening. "People are still very distressed... we feel unable to make a decision at this stage," said club chairman John Smith. The association had said it wanted Liverpool to continue in the competition and play Nottingham Forest in a rescheduled semifinal May 7 in Manchester. At the start of a semifinal April 15 at Sheffield stadium, 95 fans were crushed behind a steel-mesh fence or trampled to death. It was Europe's worst soccer disaster.

Navratilova pulls out of French Open

MONTE CARLO (AP) — Martina Navratilova, the No. 2 women's tennis player in the world, has pulled out of the French Open, one of the Grand Slam tournaments, French tennis officials said Tuesday. Cecile Cadeau, press spokeswoman for French Federation of Tennis, which runs the tournament, said they received the official notice from the Women's International Tennis Association Tuesday morning. No specific reason was given for the withdrawal by Navratilova, the winner of 18 Grand Slams, including the French Open twice, better suited for fast surfaces like grass. The French Open, May 29 through June 11, is played on the slow, red clay courts of Roland Garros stadium in Paris. Navratilova lost her no. 1 ranking in August 1987 to Steffi Graf, who won the Grand Slam and the Olympic Gold medal. Graf beat Navratilova at Wimbledon last year, reversing the results of the previous year. Navratilova owns a 7-4 mark over Graf in tournament play but is 0-2 on clay. Navratilova lost the 1987 French Open to Graf, the first Grand Slam tournament Graf won.

Becker ends three year jinx

MONTE CARLO (R) — Boris Becker ended a three-year sequence of losing his opening match at his home club when he beat American Lawson Duncan in straight sets at the \$600,000 Monte Carlo Open tennis Grand Prix on Tuesday.

Top seed Mats Wilander also won through but four seeds, including Frenchman Henri Leconte and Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland, went out.

With his 6-4, 6-1 defeat, Duncan, ranked 61st in the world, joined an exclusive club of players who have lost to Becker in the principality where he lives.

There was only one previous member but a distinguished one — no less than Romanian Ilie Nastase, who was beaten by the West German in 1985.

"It was almost like I won the tournament when I came off court," second seed Becker said. "Everyone came to congratulate me like it was a big thing and, to be honest, it was also very special for me to get past the first match."

Swede Wilander also put his recent bad form behind him, as well as memories of a first round defeat to Claudio Pistolesi of Italy last year, with a 7-6, 6-1 win over another Italian, teenager Diego Nargiso.

Leconte walked off court when trailing West German Patrick Kuehnen 6-3, 3-1. "I could see he had problems serving," Kuehnen said. "But I was surprised when he walked off. He told me he had problems with his back."

None of the other three seeds who lost in the second round — the opening match for the top 16 who all had first round byes — are at their best on clay.

Fourth seed Hasek was hammered 6-4, 6-1 by Argentine Martin Jaito while Slobodan Zivonovic of Yugoslavia (11th) and Australian Mark Woodforde (15th) both lost in straight sets to Swede Jan Gunnarsson and Uruguayan Marcelo Filippini respectively.

World Hockey Championships U.S. wins round, loses goalie

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Team USA closed out the preliminary round of the World Hockey Championships with a 6-1 victory over Poland Tuesday, but lost its goalie to injury.

John Vanbiesbroeck, who plays for the New York Rangers, was brought to hospital after being hit by the puck early in the second period and X-rays showed he had a broken jaw.

"I will have to go back to New York tomorrow," Vanbiesbroeck told the Associated Press. "The jaw needs to get wired."

Vanbiesbroeck was hit in the lower part of his face mask when a Polish shot exploded off his stick. The incident occurred about six minutes into the second period during a Polish power play.

Vanbiesbroeck, 25, had an almost identical injury two years ago when Tomas Sandstrom accidentally hit him with a shot in the face at the Rangers training

camp after the Canada Cup tournament. He missed six NHL games.

Sandstrom, the Rangers' sharpshooter, is playing for Sweden in the world championships.

Vanbiesbroeck had an 4.76 goals against average in four games and was ranked no. 7 among the championships' goaltenders going into the match against Poland.

Cleon Daskalakis, a former Boston Bruins goalie who played for Jokerit of Helsinki in the Finnish hockey league this season, will replace Vanbiesbroeck as Robb Stauber's backup goalie in the remaining championship games.

Team USA already had one player sidelined with an injury. Last Friday, defenseman Phil Housley of the Buffalo Sabres had torn collateral ligaments in a 7-4 win over West Germany and has not played since.

Team USA completed the preliminary round robin portion of the tournament with a 2-1-4 won-tied-lost record.

Meanwhile, Finland beat the West Germans 3-1 in the only other game Tuesday. Jari Kurri, playoff scoring at 82 goals, and his Edmonton Oilers teammate Esa Tikkanen paced the Finns with one goal and one assist apiece.

The Americans play Poland again in the first relegation group game Wednesday. Finland and West Germany meet again in the other game. Each team carries its points from the preliminary round into the relegation pool.

Team Canada faces defending world champion Sweden and the unbeaten Soviet Union, 7-0 in the preliminary round, plays Czechoslovakia in the first round game Thursday. All final four teams start from scratch.

Tyson sees degree as high point of success

WILBERFORCE, Ohio (AP) — Heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson said Tuesday he considers receiving an honorary doctorate from Central State University the high point of his success.

Speaking at a news conference at the University in West-Central Ohio, Tyson said he also has an honorary degree from Grambling University.

"There's no greater pleasure in the world than to be accepted by your own people," Tyson said, referring to the predominantly black Central State and Gram-

bling. Tyson said overcoming adversity is what America is all about. "In my life I've overcome a great deal of adversity," he said. "But I consider this particular moment the high point of all my success."

Central State University awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters to Tyson, a high school dropout, during commencement ceremonies Tuesday.

Tyson said corporate America is to blame for not giving youngsters a chance just because they may not wear the appropriate clothing during a job interview.

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Wright Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Activities move ahead slowly, steadily, and at their own pace. Being out and about is advantageous for many. Those shopping today should not be afraid to bargain. In-mist on a good buy.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) The honey you have your eye on could be a bitter pill underneath the sugar coating. Energy could be misdirected.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Move forward and develop talents and intuition. A lucky cycle for love and romance continues. Entertain on your own turf.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) A money pinch calls for a scaling down of plans. Your apprehensions about a romantic interest are well founded.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It is an interesting, emotional period with a variety of stimulation. Things you worry over probably never happen.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You may have to get out the velvet hammer to maintain order. Building security around basic issues is a good habit to form.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Focus on a search for a new environment or fix up the current one. Boredom can plague you. Develop solitary pursuits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You can express your creative, social image to great advantage. Unexpected events can move your career forward.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Those who see your quiet approach can misinterpret your actions as aloof and smug. Add more fire to your method of operation.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Don't repeat what you hear through the grapevine until you double-check all the facts. Compromise will help seal the deal.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) By assuming additional responsibilities you will advance your finances. It is not unachievable, but every little bit will help at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be with those you care about will help to keep you centered. Relations go by wire when your angel turns out to be a dud.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Life can be trendy when you associate with a lively peer group. Explore new horizons. Experience is your best teacher.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Circumstances can feel out of control. Don't throw in the towel and give up. Just keep your cool. Weekend mood changes. Evening socializing will be interesting.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) When you feel original you have creative energy galore. Design a novel approach toward joining someone in a mutual venture.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Start new projects. Move forward at the workplace with new ideas. Distant news firms up travel plans. Act fast to close a financial deal.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Inspiration is everywhere. You are excited by new perspectives and activities. Popularity is glowing. Travel plans can begin.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You love life activity and stimulation. A good mood makes you want to give more than you receive.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You are not being as cooperative as you can be. Surprises are in store if you remain adaptable. Additional sleep will recharge the body.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Associates are argumentative, and work is left incomplete. You may need a pry bar to get cooperation. Give attention to productive ideas.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You worry over unimportant matters. Return phone calls and answer mail immediately. Organize time for maximum efficiency.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Home entertainment may be on your mind. Be yielding when a minor misunderstanding arises over an irrelevant issue.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Talents run amok when you get sidetracked. Learn how to concentrate your efforts and accomplish your goals.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Treat yourself by doing the things that you enjoy. A frolic over the weekend, including a short trip, would give you an emotional lift.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Financial impulsiveness, along with an attitude that is overly indulgent, is self-defeating. Spending the future away today has limitations.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Your natural innocence is appealing to others. Too many amusements can overwhelm you and interfere with a blossoming romance.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ 7 ♠ A J 8 4 ♠ A J 9 3 ♠ 3 4
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K J 6 ♠ K 10 6 3 ♠ K 8 ♠ A K 9 5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠ K J 6 ♠ K 10 6 3 ♠ K 8 ♠ A K 9 5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 7 ♠ K J 10 8 2 ♠ A Q 8 ♠ A 10 6
The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ 8 5 3 ♠ 9 7 2 ♠ J 6 4 3 ♠ 8 7 4

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What action do you take?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠ A K Q 3 ♠ A J 6 ♠ 8 5 4 ♠ A Q

The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass

What do you bid now?

Look for answers on Monday.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"Since I started taking the fish oil capsules, I have an overwhelming urge to swim upstream and spawn."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

CANTE

YEEPA

VALBER

HALVIS

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

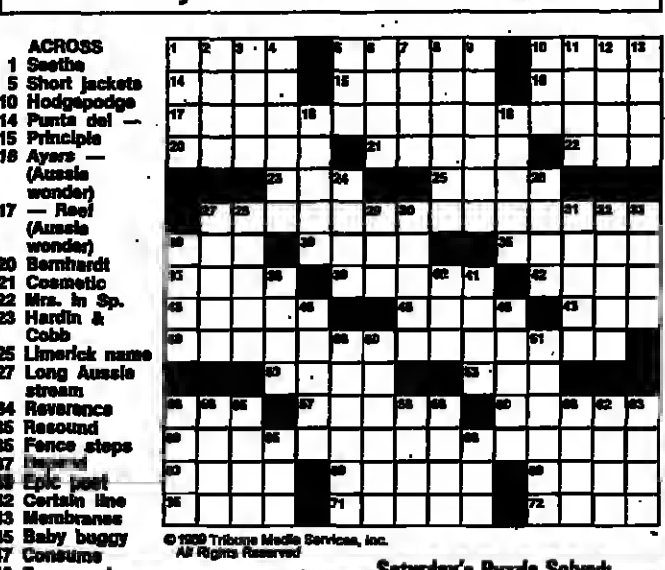
Answer: "O O O O O" & LET "O O O O O"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MOUSY CHASM MAMMAL UNLUPLY

Answer: What the phrase who ate crackers in bed was—A CRUMBY MUMMY

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Brownfield



ACROSS
1 Seattle
5 Short jacket
10 Hedgepodge
14 Punta del
15 Principle
18 Ayers
(Aussie word)
17 Rael
(Aussie word)
20 Bernhard
21 Cosmotic
22 In, to
23 Hardin & Cobb
25 Limerick name
27 Long Aussie stream
34 Relevance
35 Resound
36 Fence steps
37 Rejoice
38 Epic poet
42 Certain line
43 Membrane
45 Baby baggy
47 Consume
48 Down under
50 All area
52 Heat part
53 Vestment
54 UN sp.
57 "Is just..."
(Jargon)
60 Indian Ocean island
64 Brisbane Gold
67 Coast town
68 Lat. abbr.
69 Vacuous
70 Esprit
71 Snaky
72 Tender spots
73 Pure

DOWN
1 Wagers
2 Govt. org.
3 Roman road
4 Embassy
5 Summer: Fr.
6 Rip
7 Aware of
8 Cloudy mass
9 Theatrical var.
10 Hoax great
11 Lure
12 Chiller
13 Vegetable
14 Poetry
15 Raiser
16 Similar
17 Ms Moreno
18 Twit and
19 Greeting
20 Or, letter
21 Heraldic term
22 Shaw
23 Inventor Howe
24 Repose
25 Sider
26 Shill cry
27 Sea bird
28 Pro
29 High nest var.
30 Wed. tale
31 Governess
32 — home
33 — into the sun
(Browne)
34 Words of understanding
35 Stringed instrument
36 Verbal
37 Armadillo
38 Borge s.g.
39 Race distance
40 Glacial ridges
41 Descartes
42 Go by air
43 Legal point

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The ICS will open an English-language Kindergarten Class beginning next September Term for children aged 3-4 years. Children of all nationalities are welcome and the children do not need to know any English before they start.

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For further information please telephone the School Secretary on 841078.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Stage set for confrontation

Students defy Peking warning

PEKING (Agencies) — Pro-democracy Chinese students defied official warnings Wednesday and said they would march on central Peking even at the risk of violent confrontation with police.

"Chinese students have not yet felt the real lash of police batons. Maybe it's time we did," said one student.

Peking University students, now into the third day of a classroom strike, said they planned to start the four-hour walk from their campus to Tiananmen Square early Thursday.

Meanwhile, journalists on the country's most liberal newspaper, the Shanghai World Economic Herald, said it had been taken over by the city's propaganda department. Founded in 1980, the Herald has often angered the authorities with its strong reformist views.

Police and troops mostly have shown tolerance in the face of anti-government protests trig-

gered by the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang April 15.

One demonstration drew about 100,000 people into the vast Tiananmen Square in the biggest spontaneous protest for 13 years. Police did not intervene.

Crowds of students chanted slogans against corruption and dictatorship and shouted for democracy and freedom.

Their calls for dialogue with China's leaders have been rebuffed during the most vocal and widespread criticism of the government since the "cultural revolution" ended in 1976.

Foreign diplomats and Chinese journalists said the confrontation had entered a new stage Wednesday when all major newspapers

published a grim warning against attacks on the Communist Party and government.

Issued by the party, an official commentary said students were setting up illegal organisations, holding illegal demonstrations and inciting workers and peasants.

State television stepped up pressure Wednesday evening, announced that 10,000 party members had met in Peking and 14,000 in Shanghai to hear denunciations by senior officials of the student demonstrations.

Student leaders said a three-day class boycott had spread to 41 universities around Peking, involving more than 70,000 students. At least four more schools joined the protest Wednesday, they said.

Major newspapers and radio stations throughout the country carried a harsh editorial by the People's Daily newspaper, the voice of the Communist Party, calling the student movement "A planned conspiracy" aimed at the



Vehicles burn in front of government headquarters in Xian, southwest of Peking, after protesters attacked government buildings over the weekend.

and injured 130 armed policemen according to the New China News Agency.

overthrow of the government.

The Beijing Daily, meanwhile, published an order from the city government, telling the students to disband their organisations. Most of the student unions were formed last week after students throughout Peking voted down the official student organisations that are hand-picked by universi-

ty officials. To add weight to the government's hand about 10,000 troops from the 38th army, a special force for suppressing civil disturbances, took up positions in many buildings near university campuses, students and Chinese sources said. Police followed suit, they said.

Student leaders pledged to defy the warnings. "If the government does not agree to a dialogue we will march in the streets," said Beijing University student leader Wang Dan at an open-air meeting attended by 2,000 students at the political science and law college. "That is our right."

Key Takeshita aide — latest victim of Recruit scandal

TOKYO (Agencies) — An aide who handled scandal-tainted donations that helped to sink Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita's career committed suicide Wednesday, a day after the premier announced he would resign.

Police said Ihei Aoki, 58, who had served Takeshita since 1958, was found dead Wednesday morning at his apartment in Tokyo. He had slashed a wrist and an ankle with a razor and hanged himself, they said, and he left notes to his wife and several other people including the prime minister.

The usually unflappable

Takeshita appeared shocked by the death. He told reporters he had not seen Aoki's note but thought it was possible that the suicide was linked to the long-running Recruit scandal.

"I strongly regret (his action). We walked side by side for over 30 years," Takeshita said.

Aoki had been in charge of handling Takeshita's political funds, and his name rather than Takeshita's appeared on loans and share dealings with the Recruit Company that now are under suspicion both for political ethics and bribery. The company is accused of trying to buy

influence with politicians, bureaucrats, business leaders and media executives.

Prosecutors had questioned Aoki several times. So far, 14 people face charges in the Recruit scandal but none of them is a politician or political aide like Aoki.

Meanwhile, political factions in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) continued consultations to find a successor to Takeshita. The Japan Broadcasting Corporation said a process might take as long as 40 days.

The ruling party also threatened to break the stale-

mate which has stalled parliament for nearly two months and ran through the national budget despite a continuing boycott by opposition parties over the scandal.

Takeshita resigned Tuesday after months of revelations about large payments from the Recruit group to most of the leadership of the LDP, including himself.

He said he would remain in office until the budget passes parliament, expected by late May. Initial indications that the opposition would compromise quickly evaporated and the LDP was forced to continue

budget discussions in parliament alone.

The LDP told the opposition it would call a plenary session of the Lower House Thursday, an obvious threat to force through the budget regardless of whether the opposition parties take part.

"We are alarmed that the LDP will railroad the budget bill through," said a spokesman for the opposition Democratic Socialist Party.

Aoki, Takeshita's former secretary, bought 2,000 shares in a Recruit subsidiary and took out a loan of 50 million yen (\$380,000) from the former

president of the Recruit group. Takeshita announced his decision to resign only two days after newspapers reported that Aoki had received the loan from Recruit.

Such financial dealings have been widely interpreted as being political contributions to Takeshita.

Takeshita was asked by reporters whether the Recruit scandal had caused Aoki's death.

"I'll have to check his letters if there are any. But I think it is possible that pressures from the scandal could be one of reasons for suicide," he replied.

Tamil leader in Colombo for talks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — A Tamil rebel leader arrived in Sri Lanka from London Wednesday under tight security for preliminary talks with the government on ending a bloody rebellion.

Anton Balasingham, political adviser of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), was taken to a security men to an unknown destination.

Reporters were not allowed to meet Balasingham at the airport which was guarded by police commandos. Officials declined to give information about his whereabouts "for security reasons."

Official sources said Balasingham, a Sri Lankan Tamil who has lived in London for several years and taken British citizenship, was to hold preliminary talks later with the president's secretary K.H.J. Wijedasa.

They are the first direct talks between the Tigers and the government since representatives of Tamil separatist groups and the Colombo government met in 1985 in Bhutan under the auspices of India. The talks failed. The Tigers are fighting to set up an independent homeland in the north and east where most of the island's minority Tamil community lives.

The LTTE, the most powerful of the Tamil separatist groups, has rejected an accord between the Sri Lankan and Indian governments signed in 1987 aimed at ending the revolt.

More than 45,000 Indian troops have been deployed in the north and east to disarm the Tigers, under the pact.

In a surprise move, the LTTE April 15 unconditionally accepted President Ramasinghe Premadasa's invitation for peace talks and nominated Balasingham as its representative for preliminary discussions.

Earlier this month, Premadasa ordered a suspension of military operations against both.

Women warders soothe crowded jails

LONDON (R) — Women warders are cooling the atmosphere in some of Britain's toughest prisons for men, government officials said Tuesday.

"When they are on duty there is a calmer, softer atmosphere. Even the really hard men inside admit they have a soothing effect," a Home Office official quoted an ex-prisoner as saying. They help defuse depression caused by overcrowding and maintain discipline. More than 200 women warders have been posted to men's jails for the past 15 months. The only hitches have been minor. Some jails have had to build screens around open men's toilets.

Irishman confronts his double — dead

DUBLIN (R) — Irishman Seamus Lee arrived home after a night out on the town to discover his family making preparations for his funeral. The mourning began for the 31-year-old Dubliner when his shocked father mistakenly identified a tattooed body taken from the River Liffey as that of his son. Seamus Lee later visited the morgue to see for himself and told reporters: "They say everyone has a double — but mine is now dead."

Lincoln steps in to help library

ASHFIELD, Massachusetts (AP) — A small town library was set free from budget woes when officials found an original copy of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation lying in a pile of refuse. "It was like a providential finding," said Maurice Isserman, a trustee of the Ashfield Public Library and a professor of history at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley. Isserman discovered the document last fall as trustees were meeting to discuss the prospect of receiving state and federal grants. "Somebody said we could sell those old prints over there in the corner," Isserman said. "I walked over and looked at it and it wasn't a print, it was a document, and I looked down at the bottom and there was 'Abraham Lincoln's signature which was faded a different colour from the printed material.'"

Explanation retracted for mysterious baldness

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign specialists have questioned a Soviet diagnosis that children in the Ukrainian city of Chernobyl lost their hair because of poisoning by the metal thallium, the TASS news agency reported Monday. Dr. Gerard de Groot of the toxicological centre in the Netherlands told the news agency the quantities of thallium found in patients could not have caused serious consequences. But he and other experts, including one from the Geneva-based World Health Organisation, could not determine what caused more than 160 children to lose their hair since the autumn. In February, TASS reported that thallium, possibly carried from a Romanian chemical plant by acid rain, might be responsible for the health problems. Chernobyl is near the Romanian border. Authorities began washing streets more frequently, allowing only local drivers into the city centre and banning traffic altogether one day a week to reduce the chemical threat. TASS had reported in February. The mysterious ailment, the last case of which was discovered in November, affected primarily children under age 14 and caused "anxiety" among residents even since, the news agency said. No long-term health damage was done to the children, said Dr. Bartold Sankser, director of the Dutch centre.

Global weather (major world cities)

| | MIN. | MAX. | Weather |
|--------------|------|------|-----------|
| | ° F | ° C | |
| AMSTERDAM | 03 | 27 | 06 Cloudy |
| ATHENS | 12 | 24 | 25 Clear |
| BAHRAIN | 23 | 73 | 79 Clear |
| BANGKOK | 27 | 41 | 55 Clear |
| BUENOS AIRES | 15 | 20 | 26 Rain |
| CAIRO | 17 | 63 | 30 Clear |
| CHICAGO | 15 | 59 | 23 Cloudy |
| COPENHAGEN | 07 | 45 | 16 Cloudy |
| FRANKFURT | 10 | 50 | 12 Rain |
| GENEVA | 08 | 46 | 16 Cloudy |
| HONG KONG | 20 | 68 | 22 Cloudy |
| ISTANBUL | 10 | 50 | 20 Clear |
| LONDON | 03 | 37 | 11 Cloudy |
| LOS ANGELES | 08 | 49 | 15 Clear |
| MADRID | 06 | 45 | 15 Cloudy |
| MECCA | 23 | 73 | 40 Cloudy |
| MIAMI | 23 | 74 | 29 Clear |
| MONTREAL | 01 | 30 | 16 Clear |
| MOSCOW | 06 | 43 | 14 Cloudy |
| NEW DELHI | 23 | 73 | 38 Clear |
| NEW YORK | 08 | 47 | 19 Cloudy |
| PARIS | 08 | 48 | 15 Cloudy |
| ROME | 04 | 39 | 21 Cloudy |
| TOKYO | 11 | 62 | 19 Cloudy |
| VIENNA | 10 | 50 | 23 Cloudy |



Residents of the Namibian town of Ouanamband take refuge under the hot sun as a South African security force personnel carrier awaits a convoy. The security forces were scheduled to be confined to camps from Wednesday from 60 hours to permit Namibian nationalist fighters to withdraw to Angola.

Pretoria frees 35 SWAPO men

OSHAKATI, Namibia (R) — South African-led security forces handed 35 captured Namibian nationalists to U.N. peacekeepers Wednesday as a "goodwill" gesture and in a bid to get the territory's independence plan back on track.

South African, U.N. and Red Cross flags fluttered over this garrison town near the Angolan border as Namibian regional police commissioner Hans Dreyer handed the 35 guerrillas over to Nigerian U.N. police monitor Ezidima Ifejiaka.

The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO)

fighters were captured during bitter border fighting earlier this month and will now go to bases in Angola.

"The fighting is now over," SWAPO guerrilla Moses Lazarus told Reuters as he was led away. The nationalist guerrillas looked healthy although two of them were on stretchers after being wounded in the fighting in which nearly 300 of their comrades died.

South Africa said it was allowing 10 of the captured to stay in Namibia but the others would be escorted by the U.N. Transition

Assistance Group (UNTAG) deep into Angola under the terms of a U.N.-backed peace plan for the territory.

A spokesman for the territory's South African administration said the handover, together with South Africa's pledge to confine troops to base in Namibia for 60 hours, meant the territory's peace plan was slowly coming back on course.

The South African troop withdrawal was due to start at 1600 GMT Wednesday to give any SWAPO guerrillas hiding in the war zone an opportunity to return unimpeded to Angola.

Gorbachev purges party's echelon of Brezhnev relics

MOSCOW (R) — In a single stroke, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has rid the Kremlin leadership of more than a hundred relics of the era of his disgraced predecessor Leonid Brezhnev.

But four years into his rule Gorbachev still has not engineered the promotion to the Communist Party Central Committee, the party's top policymaking body, of some key crusaders for his perestroika reform programme.

The slimmed-down Central Committee which emerged from a plenary session Tuesday lacked reformist party chiefs from six Soviet republics. Also missing were 88 of the 115 local party bosses, most of whom were named since Gorbachev came to power.

Kremlin ideology chief Vadim Medvedev, who gave the figures at a news conference after the meeting, complained that the absence of many new leaders on the top body "cannot but affect

the work of the Central Committee."

The committee earlier approved the resignation of 110 of the Brezhnev old guard, removing a group often referred to as the "dead souls" who were officially portrayed as a brake on Kremlin reform.

Although their departure was presented as a collective resignation, there was little doubt in Moscow that it had been suggested strongly from the top that they step aside.

"Life moves on," Gorbachev said in his opening speech to the meeting, commenting that perestroika, with all the other changes it had brought, also necessitated personnel changes.

"There is a very serious regrouping of forces within the party and within society as a whole. This is dictated by new tasks," he said, according to TASS news agency.

The list of resignations read

like a list of who's who from the Brezhnev period, now officially condemned as an era of stagnation and corruption.

They included the old leader's Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, his party control chief Mikhail Solomentsev, his last Prime Minister Nikolai Tikhonov, his Vice-President Vasily Kuznetsov and his ideological aide Boris Ponomarev.

With the departures and the promotion of 24 junior, or non-voting, members to full voting status, the Central Committee now numbers 251, down from 301, Medvedev said.

But his complaint that there were still important party leaders who are not on the Central Committee suggested that the Gorbachev reform team did not get everything it wanted.

There had been widespread speculation ahead of the meeting that Gorbachev would seek to have the Central Committee call



Mikhail Gorbachev

an early party congress — the next is not due until 1991 — at which additions to the top leadership body could be made.

This did not happen. The Central Committee also apparently decided to keep many communists who lost recent elections to the new parliament — including junior politburo member Yuri Soloviyov, the highest-ranking casualty at the polls.

Book reveals blatant Western violation of S. Africa embargo

STOCKHOLM (R) — Western countries, notably the United States, Britain, France, West Germany and Israel, helped South Africa evade an international arms embargo and build up a powerful military industry, says a book published Wednesday.

The book, "Embargo Disimplemented — South Africa's Military Industry" by Sigee Landgren, details how South Africa was able to continue building up its arms industry with Western know-how and materials despite a United Nations embargo, which became binding in 1977.

Landgren, a senior researcher at the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), concludes:

"The history of the implementation of the embargo is at the same time the history of its disimplementation. Smuggling by private agents, false papers and

sham companies are only part of the story. Many sales of weapon technology have taken place quite openly."

Nuclear technology supplied to the South Africans in the 1950s helped them build two nuclear research reactors and a uranium enrichment process, later giving the South Africans the capability to build nuclear weapons, one of which may have been tested jointly with Israel in 1979.

Despite that, the embargo did bite into the aircraft industry, where the South Africans have been unable to produce new planes since 1977.

"As an example of the military impact, no Mirage fighter shot down in Angola could be replaced... the beginning of the end of the war came when South Africa's air superiority was challenged by anti-aircraft missiles."

"The logistics problem of supplying the South African army

was one factor leading to the defeat at Cuito Cuanavale in Angola in late 1988 and this problem can be traced directly to the situation created by the arms embargo," Landgren said.

But Landgren still identified Italy, France, Britain, the United States and Israel as countries which had helped the South African aircraft industry over the years.

Japan, France, West Germany and Canada had helped the South Africans produce military vehicles, West Germany and Israel had contributed to its rocket technology while Austria and the Netherlands were among countries supplying the small arms industry.

Landgren said there was no internationally agreed definition of what constituted military technology. So even ball bearings from Sweden and special steel from Switzerland had helped the South African military.

Secrecy cloud still covers Chernobyl

TALLINN, Soviet Union (R) — Three years after the Chernobyl nuclear accident, transcripts sent to clean up the site are still being kept in the dark about the dangers, according to a new group set up to defend their rights.

Ain Pajumae, a leader of the Estonian Chernobyl committee, said army authorities refused to tell soldiers the amount of radioactivity they had been exposed to and confiscated measuring devices his group tried to supply.

At the same time, Pajumae said, there were increasing signs of ill-health among the tens of thousands who had worked around the Ukrainian plant since it exploded in the world's worst

nuclear accident April 26, 1986. "None of the people who worked at the reactor know the precise dose that they received," said Pajumae, whose group — apparently the first of its kind in the Soviet Union — has been fighting since January for the rights of "Chernobyl" veterans.

"Authorities instead continue to measure radioactive doses collectively, that is for a group of people."

For Pajumae, a physicist, the refusal to let the soldiers have radiation metres is symbolic of a disregard for the health and safety of troops sent to Chernobyl from all over the Soviet Union.

He said conversations with soldiers showed their working condi-

tions were often intolerable, with many exposed to excessive radiation with minimal protective clothing.

"The only protective device given to those working in the most dangerous zones was a respirator, but that protects only against radioactive dust, not gases," Pajumae said.

Soviet film director Nikolai Mashchenko said last week the Atomic Energy and Health Ministries demanded he cut details on the doses of radiation suffered by Chernobyl workers from a documentary he has just completed.

The chances of similar Chernobyl committees springing up are unclear.

sure suffered by those who have worked at Chernobyl and to ensure they receive medical help contrasts with virtual silence on the part of authorities.

Continuing what has seemed a policy of downplaying the consequences of the accident, the official press rarely discusses "Chernobyl veterans."

Soviet film director Nikolai Mashchenko said last week the Atomic Energy and Health Ministries demanded he cut details on the doses of radiation suffered by Chernobyl workers from a documentary he has just completed.

The chances of similar Chernobyl committees springing up are unclear.

Lucille Ball, queen of comedy, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lucille Ball, the zany, wide-mouthed redhead who reigned for more than 20 years as the queen of American television comedy, died Wednesday, a week after undergoing emergency heart surgery. She was 77.

The star of "I Love Lucy" and similar situation comedies that continue in syndication around the world died at Cedars-Sinai Medical Centre, where she underwent surgery to replace her aorta and aortic valve April 18.

"The death occurred suddenly and without warning. She experienced a full cardiac arrest. Her response to surgery over a week ago was excellent and she had been improving constantly," said hospital spokesman Ronald Wise.

Ball had been bothered by a variety of maladies over the past several years, including a heart attack and minor throat surgery in 1988.

"Lucille Ball is the greatest woman clown in the world," fellow comedian Milton Berle once said. "In fact, she is one of the great clowns of all time, male or female."

Ball and her ex-husband, the late Desi Arnaz, established one of television's first major independent studios.

Desilu, as their production company was called, made some of the top comedy shows of the 1950s and 1960s, including "December Bride," "Our Miss Brooks" and "Make Room for Daddy."

As testament to their value as prime-time stars, Ball and Arnaz signed an \$8-million, no cancellation, two-year contract with the CBS network in 1953. At the time it was the largest in television history and is a figure scarcely any TV star can touch 36 years later.

The actress was last seen introducing the "Young Hollywood" production number with Bob Hope at the 61st Academy Awards ceremony March 29, receiving a standing ovation. Looking sweltering for her years in a fashionable silk skirt, she seemed to be in good health and laughed freely throughout a brief routine with Hope.

Her last series, "Life with Lucy," co-starring frequent sidekick Gale Gordon, was carried by the ABC network at the start of the 1986 season. But the show, Ball's first series in 12 years, was cancelled after less than two months when it drew low ratings.

Ball also played a bag lady in the 1985 TV movie "Stone Pillow," considered one of the most challenging roles of her career. She was hospitalised for dehydration when it was over, but the movie was a minor critical and ratings success.